



DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL

HOMWORK POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Dandenong High School expectations for homework and at-home learning.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and to staff responsible for setting homework.

- Encourage students to establish effective study habits
- Provide parents with an opportunity to be involved in their child's education
- Support the giving of relevant and necessary homework and establish the notion that study at home is an integral part of a student's ongoing learning

POLICY

- Dandenong High School expects students to further develop and consolidate their independent learning skills by completing homework tasks. Homework has a positive effect on learning and is an important part of reinforcing the concepts that are introduced in class. It also plays a significant role in building work ethic, self-discipline and responsibility.

IMPLEMENTATION

Homework should:

- Be appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- Be interesting, challenging and where appropriate, open ended
- Be balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- Be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- Be assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided

Types of homework that meet these requirements include:

Practice Exercises:

- Completing consolidation exercises
- Practising spelling words
- Practising words or phrases when learning a Language Other than English
- Reading for pleasure
- Writing essays and other creative tasks
- Practising and playing musical instruments
- Practising Physical Education skills

Preparatory homework:

- Reading background material
- Reading texts for class discussion
- Researching topics for classwork

- Collecting newspaper articles
- Revising information about a current topic

Extension assignments:

- Writing a book review
- Making or designing for Arts/Technology/STEM
- Completing investigation exercises
- Researching local news
- Finding material on the Internet
- Monitoring advertising in a newspaper

All homework must be recorded in the Dandenong High School Student Planner, which all students **must** possess. The planner is placed on the Course Confirmation Levies Sheet at each year level and is available from the Finance Office throughout the year.

At the start of each year, the House Leadership Teams, with the assistance of Learning Tutors, will ensure that students at each year level are given an introductory information session about the need for regular study and advice on how to organise a homework/study plan. Those at the more senior levels are to be given more details, advice and support.

Classroom teachers shall monitor the completion of homework by their students. Classroom teachers will refer to the House Leadership Team, any student not completing required homework to provide assistance in this area. Parents will be invited to assist the student in this area.

The Dandenong High School Student Planner will contain information for students and parents which will assist students to acquire appropriate values in regard to homework.

In Years 7 – 9 homework:

- Should include daily independent reading
- Should be coordinated across teachers in the different Domains to avoid unreasonable workloads for students
- May include extension of classwork, projects and assignments, essays and research

This will generally range from 30-45 minutes a day at Year 7 to 45-90 minutes a day in Year 9.

In Senior Years, Years 10-12:

Homework will generally increase and require from 1-3 hours per weeknight, with up to 6 hours on weekends during peak VCE periods. At this level students generally should be independent learners, but parents should be clear about the school's expectations for home study, and should discuss issues and concerns with their children and the school. Care should be taken to ensure that undue pressure is not placed on students at this level, and that a balance is maintained between the demands of study and recreational pastimes. This can generally be achieved through efficient organisation and planning, and builds on the effective study habits developed during Years 7-9.

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Example school will support students by:

- fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, as part of a comprehensive and balanced curriculum within Victorian schools
- ensuring the school's homework policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with a copy of the homework policy
- ensuring students use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school. Diaries may be electronic.

It is expected that teachers will:

- equip students with the skills to solve problems
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination
- set varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs
- give students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback and support
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents/carers becoming active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

It is expected that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing with their parents/carers homework expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- following up on comments made by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part-time employment.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
- reading to them, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- ensuring students keep a homework diary
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking homework and other learning activities to the families' culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.

Support for students, parents and carers

Teachers at Dandenong High School understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to [insert i.e. their teachers, Student Engagement Coordinator].

Students who may benefit from support completing their homework tasks are encouraged to attend Homework Club which occurs in the LRC every Monday afterschool from 3.30pm – 5pm.

Evaluation: This Policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

School Council Endorsement Date: 21st June 2022