

Forest Hill College Homework Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact 9814 9444

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Forest Hill College's policy requirements relating to homework.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Forest Hill College.

RATIONALE

Forest Hill College has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the School Council to support student learning and wellbeing by:

- Providing opportunities for students to practise and prepare for learning
- providing opportunities for students to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
- encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually,
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits

DEFINITIONS

Homework are tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

Study is where students choose to complete additional, non-assigned tasks that are completed outside of the classroom.

Revision is the process of re-examining course material to review content and skills, with an aim of identifying strengths and areas for improvement.

POLICY

At Forest Hill College all homework set by teachers will be:

- purposeful
- curriculum-aligned
- appropriate to students' skill level and age
- designed to help students develop as independent learners
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to participate in their child's learning
- monitored by the teacher

The types of homework that teachers at Forest Hill College will include are:

- completing consolidation exercises
- practising skills
- applying skills to new contexts
- reading ahead to prepare for upcoming classes
- accessing digital resources, such as videos, to prepare for upcoming classes
- reading English texts prior to class discussion
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work
- revising/preparing for assessment tasks

GUIDELINES

Time expected to be spent doing homework varies according to the year level a student is in. In general, it is expected that students should be involved in doing homework for the following times:

Year 7 to 10

Year Level	Hours per week
Year 7	4 hours per week
Year 8	6 hours per week
Year 9	8 hours per week
Year 10	10 hours per week

Year 11 and 12

As a student enters senior education, the rigour of VCE also increases. Homework is used to expand on class learning and to further develop knowledge and skills. For VCE students, including those in year 10 undertaking Early Access VCE, the school recommends the following for time that students contribute to homework, home study and revision:

Year 11 and 12: 2 hours per night **plus** 4-6 hours per weekend (2-3 hours per subject per week)

SHARED EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Forest Hill College** are to:

- advise teachers, students and parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Forest Hill College** are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning (so, they are not 'busy work' or where students 'finish off' work they did/could not complete in class)
- assess homework and provide timely and practical written feedback
- ensure the amount of homework set supports a student to engage with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities outside of school hours
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers
- 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 (for older students).

Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/carers** are:

- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in dialogue, linking homework to:
 - previous experiences the child and/or parent/carer may have had
 - family culture(s), history(ies) and language(s)
 - relevant services, clubs, associations and community.
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Forest Hill College understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents/carers are concerned their child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage parents/carers to speak to their child's teacher.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	