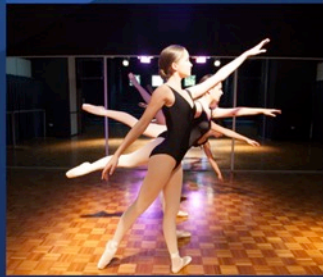


Homework Policy



Academic | Cultural | Sporting | Community

VARSITY
College

Dare to Dream

25 Aug. 15, Version 1

www.varsitycollege.eq.edu.au

Relevant legislation and policy

Section 427: Homework guidelines for State schools

- (1) The chief executive may make guidelines about homework for state schools.
- (2) Issues that may be addressed by a guideline include the following –
 - a. The purpose of homework;
 - b. Homework approaches appropriate to each stage of learning at a State School;
 - c. The setting of homework tasks for a student appropriate to the student's ability;
 - d. The recommended amount of time a student should be expected to spend on homework;
 - e. The responsibilities of teachers, parents and students in relation to homework;
 - f. The development and implementation of a homework policy by a State School Principal.
- (3) A guideline may be amended or replaced by a later guideline made under this section.

Homework Policy Statement

Homework is a valued part of education at Varsity College. There is a high expectation that all students, parents/guardians and staff will develop consistent practices to ensure maximum benefit for all students from an effective homework program. Year level staff, will inform all parents of their planned homework program for the year in the first two weeks of school.

The interest that is shown by parents/guardians in the work that students bring home is a great help in ensuring successful learning at school. Homework is not intended to be a chore for the parent/guardian, teacher or the student but instead an opportunity for parents and students to discuss school activities and to help students develop good study habits. Teachers plan a homework program to continue the development of important skills that are being developed in formal lessons.

The following table outlines the expectations for students in the implementation of a homework program that will most benefit their learning. In addition to this, students in Years 7 to 12 will use the Student Organiser to record all homework which should be regularly checked by parents/guardians and teachers. The organiser is a valuable form of communication between school and home.

Year Level	Content	Time Allocation
P-3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading (grades P, 1, 2 & 3)• Sight vocab words (grades 1, 2 & 3)• Spelling (grades 2 & 3)• Basic maths facts (grade 3)	15 min per school night Mon-Thurs
4-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading• Spelling• Maths facts-tables• Some completion of class work	25 min per school night Mon-Thurs
7-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading• Spelling & Grammar- as per teacher practice• Maths practice as directed by teacher• Completion of class work as directed by teacher	40 min per school night Mon-Thurs
10-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading• Review of class work as directed by teacher• Completion of set assessment/ assignments	60 min per night minimum and more as required

The following strategies have been developed by Varsity College staff to ensure that homework becomes an important part of the student learning program.

Students

The following strategies should be employed by students to maximise success in their learning:

- Complete/attempt all homework to the best of their ability
- Develop clear expectations for homework with parent/guardians
- Seek help from parents/teachers if they are unsure of what to do
- Complete homework in advance of due dates - do not leave it until the last minute
- See relevance and meaning of homework activities by referring to class notes or text books
- Submit all homework on time
- Have a study plan that matches your commitments for the week and ensures that all family requirements are also met
- Learn from homework through teacher feedback
- Seek assistance when difficulties arise
- Maintain a life balance to ensure that physical activity, cultural and recreational activities and part time employment requirements are maintained
- Accept responsibility for the completion of all homework
- Communicate with parents/guardians or siblings about homework and other topics.

Teachers

Will use the following strategies to support their students in developing a routine of regular, independent study:

- Set homework on a consistent basis
- Ensure that parents understand their responsibilities to manage the homework process and sign completed work
- Establish a homework program from day 1
- Clearly communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of all homework
- Maintain records of all homework completed and the achievement levels
- Set homework that is varied, challenging, directly related to class work and appropriate to student learning needs
- Ensure that students receive regular feedback on their performance in the completion of homework tasks
- Explicitly teach strategies to develop organisational and time management skills, providing opportunities to practise these strategies through homework
- Give consideration to other academic and personal development activities that students could be engaged in when setting homework
- Discuss with parents/guardians any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggest strategies to assist with their homework.

Parents/Guardians

The following strategies will enable parents to help their child maximise the benefit gained from homework:

- Set a consistent time for homework to be completed
- Support/facilitate/supervise children, especially at the start of the year to ensure that they fully concentrate on the tasks required
- Encourage children to complete all homework that has been set, preferably as soon as possible, rather than waiting until the night before it is due
- Direct students to appropriate resources where necessary
- Provide appropriate equipment/environment that enables children to immerse themselves in the study without distractions
- Involve children in tasks at home including shopping, playing games and using musical instruments
- Ensure that each child has adequate physical activity
- Encourage, praise and reinforce positive attitudes towards homework tasks
- Encourage children who complete homework to the best of their ability
- Encourage children to organise their time and take ownership of their learning
- Keep abreast of timelines and reward students for work handed in on time
- Ensure students use their student organiser to manage their homework
- Establish a consistent routine for completing homework to best meet the needs of your family and other commitments

- Keep a balance on the amount of time spent watching TV, playing computers and recreational games
- Encourage older children to take an interest in local, national and international events
- Check/view child's homework whenever possible and take a real interest in the development of their assignments wherever possible

Parents are advised to contact teachers if a reluctance to complete homework exists. The development of good habits in the early years of education will reap many rewards in the senior years of schooling. The College staff offer all parents every assistance necessary to ensure the planning, implementation and maintenance of a successful homework routine.