



HOMEWORK POLICY

1. PURPOSE & AIMS

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

2. IMPLEMENTATION

Apollo Bay P-12 College acknowledges that homework should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of all students, from Prep through to Year 12.

Teachers are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate and meaningful for their students. This may comprise of activities such as reading, practice exercises, extension assignments, spelling words, practical activities, research and more.

Junior School

The homework expectations for the Junior School will be set by each classroom teacher, and will be made explicit to students and parents alike at the beginning of the year via Information evenings, classroom handbooks and Compass communications. Homework expectations are based on the following guidelines:

Prep to Year 4

- In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. It is also intended to introduce the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare them for the upper grades.
- Assigned homework tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials.
- Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings, a weekly maths tasks, and weekly spelling words.
- Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day and where possible, homework tasks will be avoided over the weekends or during the holidays.

Year 5 to Year 6

- In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative to prepare students for secondary school.
- Assigned homework tasks will include daily independent reading and may include extension assignments, class work, essays and research.
- Students are generally not expected to spend more than 45 minutes per day on homework and where possible, homework tasks will be avoided over the weekends or during the holidays.

Senior School

Apollo Bay P-12 College expects students in the Senior School to further develop and consolidate their independent learning skills by completing homework tasks. Homework, whilst important at all year levels, especially has a positive effect on learning in the senior years 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.

Teachers in the Senior Years are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students. Homework assigned across different learning areas will be assigned by both individual teachers and discussed at PLT meetings to avoid unreasonable workloads for students.

Years 7 to 9

- Homework tasks at these year levels may include daily independent reading, extended classwork, projects, essays, exercises and research.
- Generally, students will be expected to spend between 45 to 90 minutes per day on homework tasks. Some tasks may be assigned to be completed during weekends and on the school holidays.

Years 10 to 12

- Generally, students can expect homework tasks in these year levels to increase to take into account the expected level of independence and initiative of students.
- At Year 11 and Year 12, students are expected to spend an increased amount of time completing homework tasks in preparation for VCE and VCAL.
- Students can expect to spend between 1 to 3 hours of homework per weeknight, and further study on weekends during assessment and revision periods.

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.

Apollo Bay P-12 College 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
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and making available to parents a copy of the homework policy
- encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment
- ensuring that upper primary and senior students use homework diaries and compass to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.

Teachers at Apollo Bay P-12 College 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
- develop strategies within the school to support parents and carers becoming active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage with their children both in school and via homework activities.

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

- being aware of the school's homework policy and their homework expectations
- 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 upper primary 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 at home for students to complete their homework tasks.

Support for students, parents and carers

Teachers at Apollo Bay P-12 College 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 your child's classroom teacher, or the Junior or Senior Assistant Principal.

Apollo Bay P-12 College has in place a number of learning programs that students may attend before or after school or during lunchtimes to assist with particular areas of need or interest, including:

- Wednesdays afternoon Study group
- Open Library, before and after school daily
- Negotiated teacher time during lunchtimes or before or after school

“Homework” versus “Study”

Senior Students should also be prepared to add “study” to their weekly plans.

Homework: the work a teacher sets every student in their class to meet course requirements and to prepare them for assessment

Study: what a student works out they need to do themselves to improve their understanding and skills.

Study =

- Understanding = what I need to know
- **Skill** = what I need to be able to do
- Recall = what I need to be able to remember

Skills across a wide range of subjects

- Define
- Describe
- Explain
- Select
- Determine
- List
- Use
- Compare / contrast
- Provide an example
- Evaluate
- Identify
- Justify
- Demonstrate
- Discuss
- Outline
- Name
- Interpret

Common skills

- Be able to remember
- Be able to explain well
- Be able to use (examples, formulas, procedures)
- Be able to complete answer in a limited time

Effective study: *Don't measure study by time passed, but by goals achieved*

Setting specific goals for study sessions

"At the end of this study session I want to have"

- Examples
 - 10 quotes memorised
 - Improved the detail in my written maths answers
 - Understood better what glycaemic index is

For a specific subject

"By the end of this week I want to be able to know / do better"

- Read and annotate
- Read the summarise
- Read then represent visually
- Read then create an analogy
- Read then explain to someone else
- Pick a subject , pick a concepts
- Tell someone else about it
- Record and listen back (iPod)
- Use flash cards (car, iPod, iPad)
- Create posters and put where you frequently see them
- Use acronyms
- Put to music
- Represent visually, explain verbally
- Submit something once for feedback
- Submit it again to improve

- Memorise
- Timed activities
- Use examples
- Use formulas and procedures
- Write

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- DET School Policy and Advisory Guide:
 - [Homework Guidelines](#)
 - [Homework Expectations](#)

3. EVALUATION

This Policy will be reviewed as part of the College's three year review Cycle.

DEFINITIONS: NA

REFERENCES: [Homework Guidelines](#)
[Homework Expectations](#)

DATE RATIFIED: Term 2 2019 (14/05/19)

DATE FOR REVIEW: Term 1 2022

Tiffany Holt
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