SELMONT HIGH SCHOOL	Belmont High School 'Strive for the Highest' www.bhs.vic.edu.au	Homework Policy	
Policy Status: FINAL		Document Owner:	Authorised by:
		Principal	Principal and School Council
Date of issue: 25/10/2022		Review Date: December 2025	Version 2

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Belmont High School's policy requirements relating to homework. Homework plays a significant role in building work ethic, self-disciple and responsibility.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and to staff responsible for setting homework at Belmont High School. This policy additionally invites parents to be involved in student learning and provide them with the tools to enquire about student learning and support their children through an awareness of expectations.

RATIONALE

Educational research tells us that regular homework establishes positive learning routines. Horsley and Walker, 2013, support the idea that as students grow older, homework has a positive effect on achievement outcomes. Belmont High School believes and supports expectations for homework and at-home learning appropriate to the student's skill level and age. Regular completion of homework enables students to develop study skills, reinforce concepts that are introduced in class and practice skills, all of which supports life-long learning. By setting these expectations from Year 7, we are able to foster and develop these skills ready for senior school.

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TIME GUIDELINES

The time guides below have been supplied by the Victorian Department of Education. Times are adjusted to individual year levels to support the development of skills over time.

Junior School

Students should spend time doing regular revision and consolidation activities, including but not limited to: Education Perfect Tasks, Revising Classroom Notes, Updating Mathematics Reference Books and Note Taking. There is also the expectation that if students do not complete assigned class work within the required timeframe it will be completed as homework in a timely manner.

Year 7	30 to 45 minutes five times a week (will gradually increase to this amount by end of year)	
	Including a minimum of 1 hour sustained reading per week	
Year 8	45 to 60 minutes five times a week	
	Including a minimum of 1.5 hours sustained reading each week	
Year 9	45 to 90 minutes five times a week	
	Including a minimum of 2 hours sustained reading each week	

Senior School:

Students should move beyond simply completing allocated tasks and develop their skills in revising and embedding learned concepts. **See Appendix 1 – Types of Homework** for the specific types of homework to be completed in these year levels.

Year 10	60 to 90 minutes five times a week	
Year 11	90 to 120 minutes five times a week	
Year 12	120 to 180 minutes five times a week	

Teachers at Belmont 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 contact the teacher or House Leader via Compass.

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SHARED EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers.

The school will support students by:

- 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 diaries to record their own homework (either by hand or digitally)
- using Compass to provide regular communication between parents and the school.

It is expected teachers will:

- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and an inquisitive nature
- set varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work to suit the students' learning needs. This may also take into account involvement in different programs eg. Enrichment, SEALP and VCE-VM.
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- develop strategies within the school to support parents/carers becoming active partners in homework
- consider timeframes of due homework that respect students ability to complete tasks effectively.

It is expected 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
- using their diaries effectively
- 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.

Parents/carers can support their student by:

- developing a positive approach to homework through discussions and ensuring there is a quiet and well lit study space available at home
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
- reading to students, talking with them and involving them in learning opportunities during everyday household routines and physical activity
- communicating with teachers regarding any concerns about homework or class tasks
- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in wherever possible
- discussing homework and learning with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous and/or cultural experiences.

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FURTHER SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS AND CARERS

The school will offer further support to students by differentiating homework expectations where required and through further at school support. The school library is open between 8.30am and 4:15pm Monday to Friday, students are encouraged to use this study space to build sound study routines. Students are also encouraged to seek out their teachers outside of class time and receive further assurance/assistance. VCE Students who may benefit from support completing their homework tasks are encouraged to attend study periods in the school library on Wednesday and Friday afternoons between 1:30pm and 3.15pm.

RELATED POLICY'S AND RESOURCES

• Homework – Department Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	25/10/2022
Consultation	School Council and school community
Approved by	Principal and School Council
Next scheduled review date	December 2025

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APPENDIX 1 – TYPES OF HOMEWORK

Preparation

Enable students to draw on prior knowledge in preparation for new learning such as:

- Pre-reading novels, making annotations and developing chapter summaries
- Reading about topics before entering the classroom
- Practising vocabulary for new topics
- Watching/listening to movies/video/audio recordings of topics prior to class (for example, Edrolo videos)

Revision exercises

Provide opportunities for students to apply new knowledge or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, such as:

- Reading for pleasure
- Practising subject specific vocabulary
- Practising physical education skills
- Writing essays and other creative tasks
- Practising and playing musical instruments
- Completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics with reference book
- Practising words/phrases learnt in a Language Other than English

Application Assignments

Encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively such as:

- Writing a book review
- Researching local news
- Finding material on the Internet
- Making or devising an art work
- Monitoring advertising in a newspaper
- Completing Science investigation exercises
- Prepare a family meal
- Prepare a family budget for the weekly shopping

Please note: There is also an expectation that if students do not complete assigned class work within the required timeframe that it will be completed outside of class in a timely manner.