

HOMEWORK POLICY

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community – Springside West Secondary College - the Department’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 Springside West Secondary College.

RATIONALE

The role of homework in each students’ learning varies as they progress through each year of secondary school. According to the McRel publication on Classroom Instruction that Works [McREL, 2012], the team’s meta-analysis research found that the effect size of homework increases as students’ progress from the Middle Years [7-9] into the Senior years [10-12] of their education. Fundamentally, however, homework serves to develop good study habits, foster positive attitudes toward school, and communicate to students the idea that learning takes work at home as well as at school.

The work of McRel highlighted that, whilst parents should be kept informed about students’ homework, it is inadvisable for parents to help their children with homework. Rather, parents are encouraged to facilitate homework, through monitoring the amount of time spent, when homework is completed, and the environment in which homework is completed.

Springside West Secondary College has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the school council to support student learning and wellbeing by:

- *providing opportunities for students to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills*
- *providing opportunities for students to apply new knowledge*
- *providing opportunities for students to prepare for future lessons*
- *encouraging students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively*
- *fostering good lifelong learning and study habits*
- *supporting learning partnerships with parents/carers.*

DEFINITIONS

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

POLICY

At Springside West Secondary 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
- monitored by the teacher
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.

The amount of time students spend completing homework tasks will vary significantly based on their individual capabilities in different subject areas and organisation skills. The following table is a notional breakdown of the amount of time students should expect to spend completing homework tasks per day [including studying for upcoming assessments]. Please note that these notional times will vary as each term progresses with some times of the year being less busy than others.

| Year Level | Notional amount of time per day |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| Year 7 | 1 hour |
| Year 8 | 1-2 hours |
| Year 9 | 2 hours |
| Year 10 | 2-3 hours |
| Year 11 | 3 hours |
| Year 12 | 4 hours |

The types of homework that teachers at Springside West Secondary College will include are:

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- maths pathways modules
- completing science investigation exercises
- answering textbook questions
- making or designing an artwork
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising spelling words
- practising sports skills
- practising words/phrases learnt in Italian studies
- reading background material for a subject
- reading English texts prior to class discussion
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work
- revising/preparing for tests
- applying new skills to home context such as:
 - planning and cooking food, including following a recipe
 - helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions and costs
 - reviewing their favourite film or book
- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
 - rehearsing a presentation with parent/carers, and seeking their feedback
 - interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

MAJOR ASSESSMENT TASKS

Each subject has 2-4 assessment tasks per semester. Students are provided with the assessment task in class and given appropriate class time to complete parts of the task. If a task also has components which are completed at home, students may be given 1-2 weeks to complete the task. Other assessments will be completed in class under test conditions. During an assessment task period, other homework requirements will be reduced for that subject.

All assessment tasks, including the conditions for the task and required materials, are available for parents and students to view on the "Learning Tasks" tab on Compass.

Common homework tasks are set in accordance with the unit being studied. Generally 2-3 major homework tasks per unit will be set. These tasks are used to inform teachers on students' understanding and to prepare them with the relevant knowledge and skills required for their summative assessment tasks. These will be provided and explained in class.

Students may also be required to complete minor activities for homework if they have not finished their classwork or are required to review a topic to develop further understanding.

Students should be regularly revising and reviewing content taught in class so that they are prepared for assessment tasks and tests.

THE ROLE OF HOMEWORK TASKS IN SENIOR YEARS

Throughout Years 10-12, students are provided with homework tasks throughout each unit as a means for addressing the key skills and knowledge for each area of study. These homework tasks are a key component to students satisfactorily meeting all of the outcomes for each subject they undertake.

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 Springside West Secondary 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 Springside West Secondary 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 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

Springside West Secondary 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.

As part of our support program with regards to the completion of homework tasks, students have access to the following after school programs:

- **Year 7 - 9 students:** Homework club, supervised by SWSC staff, which is run each Wednesday afternoon in Building E
- **All students:** Maths Club, supervised by SWSC staff, which is run each Monday afternoon in Building E

Students at all year levels are also encouraged to make appointments with their respective subject teachers, in order to seek one-on-one or small group assistance, either after school or during lunch times if available. In doing so, they are taking ownership of their studies and engaging with the challenges of learning at Secondary School level, in a proactive manner.

WORK REDEMPTION

- If a student does not submit a homework task the classroom teacher will set a detention.
- If the student does not attend the detention, or complete the work, this will be followed up by the Year Level Coordinator.
- Our after-school programs are designed to further assist students in keeping up with their studies. If required, a student may be referred to either Homework Club or Work Redemption:
 - Year 7 - 9 students: the student will be referred to Homework Club after school on a Wednesday from 3-4pm.
 - Year 10 - 12 students: the students will be referred to Work Redemption sessions after school on a Wednesday from 3-4pm.

- Parents will be notified of the overdue work and Homework Club requirements via Compass email. This email will outline the date and the work that the student is to complete.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework - Department Policy](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated in March 2021 and is scheduled for review in March 2025.