



Homework at...

MOUNT CLEAR COLLEGE

Rationale: The Homework Policy at Mount Clear College is guided by strong evidence that suggests that highly successful students have developed a strong habit of self-directed homework during their years at school. This homework, especially in the senior years, supplements the in-classroom learning. This in-classroom learning allows coverage of approximately 50% of the time needed to successfully gain the key skills and knowledge for any subject. Homework should be an effective continuation of a planned program at school, and should indicate to parents what their child is doing at school. Parents are able to assist by establishing and encouraging a home study routine.

A reasonable time should be allowed for students to complete their home study program. Students need to develop a regular and planned program of study and to become self-motivated in their approach. It needs to be recognised that:

- Homework is educationally beneficial and must be attempted
- Homework helps prepare students for study at higher levels
- Homework should be regularly monitored by parents
- Parents and students may request additional homework in any subject
- COMPASS should be used as a means of communication between parents and teachers

Although it is generally agreed that homework has an important role to play in the overall education of the student, times or quantities of work cannot be specified. The amount of homework undertaken and the time to complete work depends upon:

- the type of homework
- the needs and skills of the student
- the level at which the student is studying
- the subjects or units the student is studying
- the topics and the methods of teaching in each unit or subject
- the balance with home commitments, social activities and casual employment

Homework includes a wide range of learning activities in addition to set homework tasks. The following gives examples of these:

- reading independently on a daily basis
- completing the work students did not finish in class
- completing the work the class covered when the student was absent
- spending extra time to thoroughly complete class work or projects
- working on a special project or assignment
- researching for extra information
- practicing a particular skill such as sport, cooking, textiles, wood craft skills, playing a musical instrument, drawing or ceramics
- completing some extra work in an area students are passionately interested in

- spending time reading a novel or other books or magazines or reading aloud to a younger brother or sister
- revising and learning class work particularly before a test such as : making a summary of points covered, making up questions about the work and having someone test you or testing yourself verbally or in writing, drill work such as repeating facts over and over or doing more examples of similar type or practicing answering questions from old test papers.

Suggested minimum times for homework

The guidelines below are supported across the College by the work we have been doing in explicitly teaching students study skills. In the senior school we have been working with Elevate Education to enhance student study skills as they complete their secondary education:

<http://au.elevateeducation.com/>

Year 7 40 minutes per night, including independent reading

Year 8 40 minutes per night, including independent reading

Year 9 40 minutes per night, including independent reading

Year 10 60 minutes per night

Year 11 60 - 90 minutes per night

Year 12 60 - 180 minutes per night during peak VCE periods

Note that homework time might vary significantly from one student to another.

Assignment Work

Students are expected to attempt assignments and work requirements to the best of their ability. Work must be submitted on the due date. Extensions may be negotiated with individual teachers providing the need is genuine and the request made prior to the due date (minimum 24 hours).

It is important that parents do not do the work for the student; rather they are a resource, a support.

Evaluation

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Author	Alan Archbold
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Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	
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Responsible for Review	Student Learning Leadership team
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References	Victorian Government Schools Policy and Advisory Guide