



MORDIALLOC COLLEGE

A better choice in education

Homework Policy

Purpose

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

Scope

This policy applies to students in all year levels and to staff responsible for setting homework.

Policy

Mordialloc College expects students to further develop and consolidate their independent learning skills by completing homework tasks. Homework has a positive effect on learning 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 at Mordialloc College are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students. Homework assigned across different learning areas will be coordinated by the Learning Area Leaders, in consultation with the Year Level Coordinators, to avoid unreasonable workloads for students.

Home Study

Students should independently follow-up on class work to ensure that work is understood by reviewing the notes given in each class from the day, and relevant facts are committed to memory as a foundation for future learning. This should be done each night. Consistent study throughout the year is essential for success. Home study habits should be formed in the middle years and continued in the senior years.

Homework

A teacher may set a task to be completed outside of class time and/ or any unfinished work from a subject. Mordialloc College believes that some homework should be set and done regularly to promote student engagement. Some tasks may be assigned to be completed during weekends and on the school holidays. Additionally, extra homework should not be given out before a public holiday, long weekend, or student free day, simply because it is scheduled. The amount of homework given over these periods should be consistent with any other weekend.

Years 7 – 9

Generally, students in Years 7 and 8 will be expected to spend **60 minutes** per day on homework tasks and/ or home study and Year 9 students will be expected to spend **90 minutes**.

In the Middle School, students who do not complete their homework on time and/ or not to the student's best standard, based on data, their teacher will allocate them to our Homework Club which occurs every week on a Tuesday from 3:15 pm until 4:15 pm. If they miss the allocated Tuesday session, they are automatically entered

into the Friday after school session operating at the same time. This will show on the student's Compass schedule.

Years 10 – 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. Students are expected to spend an increased amount of time completing homework tasks in preparation for VCE and VCAL.

Students in Year 10 will spend **2 hours** per day on homework tasks and/ or home study, whereas students in Years 11 and 12 can expect to spend between **2.5 and 3 hours** of homework per weeknight, and **further study on weekends** during assessment periods.

In the Senior School, students who do not complete their homework on time and/ or not to the student's best standard, based on data, their teacher will allocate them to our Study Sessions which are held during the lunch breaks every week on Mondays and Thursdays. If they miss their allocated session, they are to attend after school on the proceeding Thursday from 3:15 pm until 4:15 pm. If they are still not able to complete their homework or overdue task, they will return on the following day (Friday) afterschool session operating at the same time. This will show on the student's Compass schedule.

Holiday Homework

It is important that students relax and recuperate over an extended holiday period at the end of each term. Holiday homework will support student learning to reinforce previously learnt concepts, not introduce new skills.

To ensure consistency, teachers will allocate up to the maximum number of hours listed for each year level for any given holiday break.

- Year 7 – 9 Up to one hour per subject
- Year 10 Up to two hours per subject
- Year 11 – 12 No hard limit; teachers will consider their students' wellbeing before setting tasks

Students in Years 7-10 should not be assigned to complete benchmark assessments as holiday homework. VCE students may be expected to work on assessments over the holidays. However, the teacher will ensure sufficient class time to work on the assessment and make due dates clear to students with AS MUCH NOTICE AS POSSIBLE. Sufficient class time must be provided for SACs.

For Years 7 – 10, the one hour time limit (two hours for Year 10) does **not** include:

- Overdue work
- Catch-up work
- Pure reading tasks

Catch up work refers to when the majority of the class have completed the set tasks for the term, but there are a few students who are not completely up to date. There are a number of potential reasons why a student could be behind with their work, such as a family holiday taken during the term, they chose not to work their hardest during the term, or other personal matters. If the entire class is not up to date, then work set during the holidays must be still within the one hour of work.

The time limit also does not include tasks that are purely reading, as every student reads at a different pace. A "pure reading task" could also be watching a movie/film, listening to music, or viewing a performance. This means that all of these types of tasks are not included in the one-hour limit/maximum (or for year 10, the two-hour limit).

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.

Mordialloc 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
- ensuring the school's homework policy is relevant to the needs of their students
- 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 homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.

It is expected that teachers 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
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- develop strategies within the school to support parents/carers becoming active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

It is expected that 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
- 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/ home study;
- 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 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 for students to complete their homework tasks.
- If parents/ carers are worried about too much homework or lack of it, they should contact their child's subject teacher and then if concerns continue, their Year Level Coordinator.

Support for students, parents and carers

Teachers at Mordialloc 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 them, or is spending a long period of time completing their homework, we encourage you to speak to their subject teacher.

Students who may benefit from support completing their homework tasks are encouraged to attend study periods in the EZ on Thursdays between 3:15 and 4:15 pm.

Review Cycle

This policy was last reviewed in **November 2019** and is scheduled for review on **November 2022**.