



Homework

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Lyndale Secondary 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 at Lyndale Secondary College

Rationale

Lyndale 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 Lyndale 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.

Lyndale Secondary 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 Lyndale Secondary 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 year level coordinators and the Curriculum Leader to avoid unreasonable workloads for students.

Guidelines

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

- completing consolidation exercises for mathematics
- completing science investigation exercises
- making or designing an artwork
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising spelling words

- practising sports skills
- practising words/phrases learnt in a language other than English
- 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
 - growing plants
 - reviewing their favourite film or book
 - writing a diary entry
- 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.

- Specific homework details will be recorded by students in their organisers.
- Classroom teachers will set daily homework appropriate to each child's skill level and age.
- Homework activities will be relevant, purposeful, challenging and where appropriate, open-ended.
- All homework activities will be assessed with feedback and support provided by teachers.

Years 7-9

- Homework will consist mainly of independent reading on a daily basis, and tasks including the extension of class work, projects and assignments, essays and research.
- Homework will generally be between 45 and 90 minutes per day. It may be set during weekends and on holidays.

Years 10-12

- Homework will generally increase from 90 minutes to 3 hours per weeknight and up to 6 hours on weekends during peak VCE exam periods. This takes into account the expected level of independence and initiative of students.
- In addition to classwork extension, tasks will include reading, research, assignments, assessments tasks, SAC preparation and independent projects.
- There will be explicit teaching in organisation/planning skills and time management to facilitate the timely completion of tasks by the due date with minimal stress. Timetables should be recorded in the student organiser including study time, recreational activities, sporting and family commitments. This will be signed by parents weekly.

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 Lyndale Secondary College** are to:

- 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 students
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and providing them with a copy of the homework policy
- ensuring students use the student organiser to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Lyndale 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)
- 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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- 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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/carers** are:

- 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 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
- providing appropriate facilities and conditions for study in the home. A well ventilated climate-controlled, quiet space away from distractions is required.

Support for students, parents and carers

Lyndale 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 that your 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 the relevant teacher or year level coordinator.

Students who may benefit from support completing their homework tasks are encouraged to attend the after school homework program in the Senior School Centre on Wednesdays, 3.30 - 4.30pm.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

Related policies and Resources

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	Term 2 2023
Consultation	Lyndale Secondary College Leaders – Term 2 2023 Subject Area Leaders – Term 2 2023
Approved by	Pam Robinson
Next scheduled review date	2026

Endorsed Date: 5th May 2023
Date of next review: May 2026