

HOMEWORK POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school Policy Leader on 9112 9500 or via email info@footscray.vic.edu.au

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Footscray High School policy requirements relating to homework.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Footscray High School.

RATIONALE

Footscray High School 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.

This policy is guided by our curriculum philosophy as outlined below.

At FHS, we approach the curriculum through two fundamental questions;

- **What can we know about an area of learning?** and,
- **What can we do with this knowledge to make a positive impact on our world?**

For example, what can we know about Ancient History, Mathematics, or Science and how can we use this knowledge to better understand and to provide solutions for emerging changes in our world and beyond?

FHS seeks to enact a future-focussed learning experience in every classroom for every student and our curriculum provides the basis for this. For us, a future focussed curriculum is one that draws on the rich traditions of the past in all disciplines of knowledge, but that gazes forward to identify the big questions that confront us as a species and world, and that provides a framework in which we can adapt to, and tackle those questions at a local level. The Victorian Curriculum provides the framework from which we can contextualise learning experiences for our students and community with the view of supporting them to become qualified, socialised, and autonomous young people that feel a moral sense of responsibility for each other and the world.

<https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>



DEFINITIONS

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

POLICY

At Footscray High School 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 types of homework that teachers at Footscray High School **may** 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
 - starting a band
 - joining public events such as marathons or community sport / theatre
- 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.

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 Footscray High School are to:

- advise teachers, students and parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of and throughout the school year and provide them with access to the homework policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for teachers at Footscray High School are to:

- use their professional judgment to determine homework requirements for students based on the learning program, unit of work or class, and/or the individual needs of students.

When determined that homework is required, teachers 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.
- informing parents/carers if students are continually not engaging in homework.

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).
- provide feedback to teachers about the relevance of homework tasks

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 or their child's engagement with 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

Footscray High School 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.

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

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- [Homework - Department Policy](#)

REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	November 2023
Consultation	Curriculum Improvement Team, School Council Curriculum Sub-Committee
Approved by	Executive Principal
Mandatory minimum review cycle	3 - 4 Years
Next review date	November 2027