

Homework Expectations Policy

Complementing and reinforcing classroom learning



**Brighton
Secondary
School**

What does the research say?

As students mature and develop the study skills necessary to delve deeply into concepts and to retain new learning, they also benefit more from homework. Research shows that homework can have moderate benefits for middle school students ([Cooper et al., 2006](#)) but that too much can be detrimental ([Fernández-Alonso, Suárez-Álvarez, & Muñiz, 2015](#)).

At Brighton Secondary School, the purpose of homework is to:

- complement and reinforce classroom learning so that students can work towards mastery of skills or deeper understanding of concepts
- foster good lifelong learning and study habits
- develop self-regulation processes such as goal setting, self-efficacy, self-reflection, and time management
- support partnerships with parents/carers by connecting families with the learning happening at school

We believe the effectiveness of homework is enhanced when:

- it is set at an appropriate level for each student (differentiated)
- it is related to essential learning at school (connected)
- there is choice in tasks provided (self-efficacy)
- it supports students to have a balance of school-related and non-school related activity in their lives (ie., where the amount of homework set provides sufficient additional time for students to engage with family, sport and recreation, cultural pursuits, and employment, where appropriate)
- homework is checked and not graded
- there are structures in place at school to support homework completion including homework club

**It is worth noting that some students take longer to practice and master skills than others, but all practice is helpful.*

Middle School (Year 7-9)

In the Middle School students' homework will be predominantly used for practice towards mastery of skills, and rehearsal. This is often best achieved with short (~10 minute) but frequent practice and should not require the assistance of a teacher or adult. Students who demonstrate good habits of practice will be demonstrating our school ASPIRE values, in particular Ambition, Success and Perseverance.

In some circumstances students in the Middle School will work on assignments at home after being given clear instructions and exemplars of what is expected. Homework should not exceed 5 hours in total per week across all subjects in the Middle School.

Senior School (Year 10-12)

In the Senior School students' homework will more likely be used for revision, assignment completion and tasks designed to work towards mastery of skills. Students in the senior years should aim to complete at least 1-2 hours of study or homework each day/night. This may incorporate study lessons during the school day either at school or as home study.

It should be noted that to achieve mastery in some subjects, students at Stage 1 (Year 11) and Stage 2 (Year 12) may need to spend more time rehearsing and revising content and applying their skills. The application of more

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than 4 hours per day outside of school hours may be considered excessive and should be discussed with the Home Group teacher to ensure student wellbeing.

Senior students who work and/or have a range of commitments after school should work to develop a regular routine at school and at home to utilise their time most effectively to maximize their learning. This may include seeking advice and support from their teachers during study periods.

Roles and responsibilities

Leaders are responsible to:

- develop, review, and ensure the policy is being applied
- liaise with teachers to ensure the amount and frequency of homework is appropriate for the relevant year level
- communicate the expectations at the beginning of the school year
- ensure the Homework Policy is accessible via the school website

Teachers are responsible to:

- set homework that is 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
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning
- ensure that homework requirements are visible on Daymap for both students and parents/carers
- ensure that the amount of homework does not exceed the recommended time for homework for a particular year group
- Provide time in class for students to write down homework in their planner (Middle School)
- Provide sufficient time for students to complete homework
- Check that students do the homework
- Inform parents if students are habitually not doing homework, or not completing it to satisfactory standards

Students are responsible to:

- be aware of the school's homework policy
- record their homework in their planner (Middle School)
- refer to Daymap for homework instructions for each lesson
- accept responsibility for the completion of homework tasks within set time frames
- organise their time to manage home obligations, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities, and part-time employment (for older students)
- seek assistance if they are unable to complete the work as required.

Parents/Carers are responsible to:

- ensure there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family, and cultural activities
- encourage their child/young person to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation
- encourage them to set a regular daily session to complete homework without distractions, such as electronic devices, television, and social media

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- check Daymap for what homework has been set and ensure students keep a homework record (Middle School planner, senior school choice of format)
 - ensure there is a quiet study area to complete homework.