



## MONTMORENCY SECONDARY COLLEGE

### HOMEWORK POLICY



#### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the College on 9422 1500.

### PURPOSE

To outline to our College community the Department's and Montmorency Secondary College's policy requirements relating to homework.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and to staff responsible for setting and monitoring homework at Montmorency Secondary College.

### RATIONALE

Montmorency 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 Montmorency 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.

Montmorency 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 Montmorency 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 teachers to avoid unreasonable workloads for students.

### Years 7 to 9

Generally, students will be expected to spend between 45 and 90 minutes per day on homework tasks. Homework must be co-ordinated between teachers to avoid excessive workload and may be set during weekends and school vacations.

Homework tasks at Years 7 – 9 may consist of, but not limited to, independent reading on a daily basis, tasks, such as continuation of classroom work, projects and assignments, essays and research.

Where no formal homework is set, it is expected that students read. To assist students in this, the Resource Centre is available for student use out of school hours.

### Years 10 to 12

Generally, students can expect homework tasks in Years 10-12 to increase in order to take into account the expected level of independence and initiative of students.

At Year 11 and Year 12, students are expected to spend an increased amount of time completing homework tasks in preparation for VCE and VCAL.

Students can expect to spend between 90 minutes to 3 hours of homework per weeknight, and further study on weekends, particularly during VCE assessment periods.

Homework may consist of reading, research, assignments, assessment tasks and independent projects.

Homework schedules will be discussed with each student individually, with opportunities available for parents to discuss homework issues with the College.

Students will be provided with formal opportunities to build organisation and planning skills. To assist students in this, the Resource Centre and Year 12 Study Centre are available for student use out of school hours.

## Shared expectations and responsibilities

Homework is a shared responsibility between the College, 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 Montmorency Secondary College** are to:

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

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

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).

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
- 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

Montmorency 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 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.

## Homework Club for Year 7, 8 and 9 Students at Montmorency Secondary College

Students who may benefit from support completing their homework tasks are encouraged to attend Homework Club which currently runs on Monday and Wednesday afternoons in the Resource Centre between 3:15 and 4.15pm.

Homework Club on Monday operates in the following way.

- a) Any student who wishes to avail themselves of the opportunity to go to Homework Club where they can undertake homework and receive teacher assistance at school can do so.
- b) Any student who gets behind with homework and or assignments in a teacher's class can be booked into Homework Club by their teacher to assist them to catch up on this work at this time.
- c) Some parents/guardians book their son/daughter into Homework Club on a permanent basis in order for them to keep up to date with their homework.

Homework Club on Wednesday has a Maths and Science focus. A number of Maths and Science teachers attend this session to assist students with their work. Attendance is purely voluntary.

### COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our College 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
- 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	September 2022
Approved by	 Frances Ibbott Principal 7/9/22
Next scheduled review date	September 2025