

## COLAC SECONDARY COLLEGE

### HOME STUDY POLICY

#### PURPOSE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting **home study** at Colac Secondary College.

#### POLICY

Colac Secondary College acknowledges that **home study** should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students. Teachers at Colac Secondary College are encouraged to exercise their discretion in assigning tasks that are appropriate for their students and most likely to be meaningful.

#### Years 7 to 9

**Home study tasks** at these year levels may include daily independent reading, extended classwork, projects, essays, exercises and research.

Students can expect to spend between ½ to 1 ½ hours of **home study per weeknight**; and further study on weekends during assessment periods.

Home study guide;

- Year 7 - 1/2 to 1 hour per night (5 times per week)
- Year 8 - 1/2 to 1 hour per night (5 times per week)
- Year 9 - 1 to 1 ½ hours per night (5 times per week)

Some tasks may be assigned to be completed during weekends and on the school holidays. **Years 10 to 12**

Generally, students can expect **home study** tasks in these year levels to increase 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 **home study tasks** in preparation for VCE and VCAL.

Students can expect to spend between 2 to 3 hours of home study per weeknight; and further study on weekends during assessment periods.

Home study guide;

- Year 10 - 2 hours per night (5 times per week)
- Year 11 - 2 to 2 ½ hours per night (5 times per week)
- Year 12 – 2 ½ to 3 hours per night (5 times per week)

### **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.

### **Colac Secondary 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 home study policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of home study expectations at the beginning of the school year and providing them with a copy of the home study policy
- encouraging parents/carers of early primary school aged children to read to and with their children for enjoyment
- ensuring that upper primary students use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school.

### **Teachers at Colac Secondary College 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 and carers becoming active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their children.

### **It is expected that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:**

- being aware of the school's home study policy
- discussing with their parents/carers home study expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of home study 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 home study and ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on home study 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 upper primary students keep a homework diary
- discussing home study with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
- linking home study 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.

### **Support for students, parents and carers**

Teachers at Colac Secondary College understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and home study differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand the home study tasks that have been set for him or her, or is spending a long period of time completing their home study tasks, we encourage you to speak to their teacher or Year Level Coordinators.

**Colac Secondary College has in place a number of learning programs that students may attend before or after school or during lunchtimes to assist with particular areas of need or interests.**

Students may be referred to programs by their teacher in consultation with their parents/carers.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
  - Home study Guidelines
  - Home study Expectations

### **EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed every three to four years or more frequently if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

Council Approval date	June 2021
Review date	2025
DET/VRQA required	Yes