



HOMEWORK POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Foster Secondary College on 03 5682 2066.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Foster Secondary College's expectations for homework and at-home learning.

SCOPE

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

RATIONALE

Foster 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 Foster 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.

- Homework is the work the teacher sets for students to practise a skill or develop their understanding of the content. Short, quality, purposeful homework tasks make a difference to fostering good lifelong learning and study habits.
- The setting of homework needs to take into consideration the need for students to have a balanced, active lifestyle. This includes sufficient time for family, sport and recreation, cultural pursuits and employment where appropriate.

DEFINITIONS

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

POLICY

Foster Secondary College expects students to further develop and consolidate their independent learning skills by completing homework and home study tasks. The completion of unfinished work, set tasks, and home study have a positive effect on learning and are important components of reinforcing the concepts that are introduced in class. A home learning routine plays a significant role in building work ethic, self-discipline and responsibility. It also is time students can spend pursuing issues and themes of interest to them, either online or in discussions with family members.

Teachers at Foster 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 comprised of the completion of unfinished work, set tasks, assignments, and home study of key concepts covered in class.

Years 7 to 9

Homework tasks at these year levels may include daily independent reading, completion of set classwork, projects, essays, exercises and research. Students are also strongly encouraged to revise key concepts covered in class in preparation for assessment tasks and to consolidate and clarify their content knowledge. Additionally, students are expected to utilise home learning time to ensure they have adequately met the learning intention and goals of each lesson during the day. These goals are explicitly stated in each class and students are encouraged to monitor their own progress and complete unfinished tasks at home when necessary.

Years 10 to 12

Generally, students can expect homework tasks in these year levels to increase to take into account the expected level of independence and initiative of students, and enhanced expectations of home study. 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 assessments. They should also maintain a regular and cyclical revision process in readiness for end of year exams.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Home learning is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to maximise student outcomes, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Foster 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 homework policy is relevant to the needs of students
- advising parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with a copy of the homework policy
- maintain our ongoing commitment to the Homework Club, providing resources and facilities to students to support them in completion of set home learning tasks and home study.

- ensuring students use homework diaries to provide regular communication between parents and the school.

It is expected that teachers 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 home learning tasks, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assess home learning 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
- provide guidance for students for home study and revision exploits
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning.

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

- being aware of the school's home learning policy
- discussing with their parents/carers home learning expectations
- accepting responsibility for the completion of home learning 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.
- carrying and utilising their diary.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to home learning
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on home learning and recreational activities
- discussing class learning, pathways, current events, 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 home learning tasks and expectations

- attending the school events, productions or displays their child is involved in
- monitoring the use and maintenance of a school issued diary
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their home learning tasks
- assist students in the provision of appropriate technology and resources to support student learning. If there are difficulties with this, please contact the college.

Support for students, parents and carers

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

Students who may benefit from support completing their homework tasks are encouraged to attend Homework Club. At Foster Secondary College we are proud to have staff who are very keen to assist individual students – please encourage your child to talk with the subject teacher as a first port of call.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	13th day of November 2023
Consultation	Foster Secondary College School Council
Approved by	Principal Dean Duursma
Next scheduled review date	October 2026 (Review cycle for this policy is 3 years)