



Trafalgar High School

HOMEWORK POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the General Office at Trafalgar High School on (03)56331733

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

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

RATIONALE

Trafalgar 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.

DEFINITIONS

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

POLICY

At Trafalgar 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

	Expected maximum homework per weeknight	Additional Information from the Department of Education Victoria
Year 7	60 Minutes	Students from Years 7-9 should also undertake 30 minutes of daily independent reading in addition to regular homework.
Year 8		
Year 9		
Year 10	90 Minutes	VCE students can expect an increase in daily homework, including on weekends, during peak periods.
Year 11	120 Minutes	
Year 12		

The types of homework that teachers at Trafalgar High School will include are:

- completing work that was not finished during class
- practising words/phrases learnt in Indonesian
- 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

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 Trafalgar High School** 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 Trafalgar High School** are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful
- 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

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

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,
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Trafalgar 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

<p>✘ Reading is not studying. Reading and re-reading texts or notes is not actively engaging in the material, nor is highlighting or underlining text.</p>	<p>✓ Active engagement forms connections. Create a study guide by topic. Formulate questions and write complete answers. Explain the information in your own words as if you are teaching a class. Derive examples that relate to your own experiences. Create concept maps or diagrams that explain the material.</p>
<p>✘ Cramming and long study sessions are ineffective. Trying to complete a complex task in one sitting over several hours does not improve learning and often leads to negative attitudes toward homework.</p>	<p>✓ Schedule regular, brief study sessions Distributed practice – spacing out your studying into short periods over several weeks – is the most effective way to learn and improve skills. Create a study timetable to ensure you can fit your study sessions into your afterschool routine. Be specific and realistic about the length of time you can spend on each task; avoid writing more tasks on your list than you can reasonably complete. Break larger tasks into smaller components.</p>
<p>✘ Reconsider multi-tasking. Engaging in many activities at once feels busy and productive, but research shows it results in poorer learning, skill development and efficiency, as well as a reduced capacity to concentrate.</p>	<p>✓ Uni-task when studying. Eliminate distractions during your study sessions, including social media, web browsing, game playing, texting, etc. If you don't need your computer for homework, then don't use it. Turn off your phone.</p>
<p>✘ If you are stressed, don't punish yourself.</p>	<p>✓ Rebuild your confidence and be sensible.</p>

Being caught in a spiral of negative thinking worsens learning and productivity.

Begin with shorter, easier tasks to prove you are capable, then attempt harder homework. Ensure you have some balance in your life, including time for family, friends, exercise, hobbies, etc. Speak to your family and teachers about feeling overwhelmed.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	December 2024
Consultation	Leadership Team Curriculum Committee Teaching Staff School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	December 2028

This policy was ratified at the School Council Meeting held at Trafalgar High School;

Date: 11 December 2024

Scheduled for review in: 4 years



Signed:
School Council President
Holly Perriam



Signed:
Principal
Brett Pedlow