



433 Springvale Road, Springvale VIC 3171  
P (03) 9547 5000 F (03) 9547 6621  
E [principal@killester.vic.edu.au](mailto:principal@killester.vic.edu.au)  
[www.killester.vic.edu.au](http://www.killester.vic.edu.au)  
ABN 34 169 198 421

# Homework Policy

## Context

Homework is an aspect of learning that consolidates the school-based curriculum and helps develop a link between the College and home. Homework is important for reinforcing key understandings from current lessons, continuing work on assignments, and revising, organising and preparing for new learning and classroom activities.

## Values:

- Persistence
- Love of learning
- Independent learning
- Responsibility
- Diligence
- Perseverance

## Policy

At Killester College teachers guide students to take responsibility for developing positive homework and study habits by setting regular work to be completed at home based on each year level's expectations. Homework is designed to keep students focussed on the relevance and purpose of their learning. It reflects an individual student's learning abilities and is set in light of the student's family commitments and life outside school.

## Implications

- Homework involves do-able tasks in terms of skills, abilities and resources which are part of the current classroom curriculum, and reinforces the aims of classroom learning.
- Subject teachers prepare activities at the beginning of each school year and/or semester in order to assist students to develop appropriate study habits and homework skills.
- Teachers make themselves aware of the other home commitments of students in order to guide their judgment in terms of the amount of homework set. In the event of these out of school commitments being over-burdensome, teachers may need to discuss the situation with parents concerned.
- Subject teachers are acutely aware of homework commitments around reporting time so as not to overload students toward the end of term.

## **Related Policies:**

Teaching and Learning Policy

### **Guidelines for Teachers**

1. Homework tasks will be clearly communicated to students.
2. Whilst homework in Years 7 and 8 will be more teacher- directed, in Years 9 to 12 the emphasis will be placed on students becoming more self-directed, developing responsibility for organizing their own homework timetables and patterns of work.
3. Homework that is submitted should be returned to students after correction within a reasonable timeframe.
4. Homework should not be given to a class in lieu of:
  - Not seeing students for a day or more because of the timetabling of classes
  - Lessons missed due to whole-school activities.
5. However, particularly in the senior levels, students will need to complete catch-up work to keep up to date with their work if they miss classes due to school-based activities.
6. Homework should not be given as a punishment or as a reward.

### **Guidelines for Students**

1. Homework is an extension of work done in class and students will generally complete homework on the night on which it is given. Where students have been given a number of days to complete a task, they should determine which nights they will devote to this work.
2. Students should record all homework tasks in their Homework Record Book.
3. When students have little set homework, they will be expected to use their time at home to undertake other homework activities, such as:
  - a. Revision
  - b. Practising skills
  - c. Note taking
  - d. Catching up on missed work
  - e. Organizing folders
  - f. Preliminary reading.
4. At home, students are encouraged to participate in a variety of important learning experiences aside from homework. These may include:
  - a. Watching documentaries
  - b. Physical exercise, e.g. sport, walking, dancing etc.
  - c. Discussing current affairs
  - d. Wide reading
  - e. If possible, during holiday periods, visiting art or other relevant exhibitions.
5. Students will maintain neat work folders, following guidelines set by teachers. Students are encouraged to develop a homework study routine and familiarize themselves with this by means of a study timetable. (Refer to Homework Record Book for suggestions re goal setting, etc.).

## **Guidelines for parents**

1. At home, students and parents are encouraged to organize a quiet work area, free from distractions and with plenty of space in which to work.
2. Students are reminded that use can be made of the College library which opens at 8 am and closes at 5 pm each school day.
3. Students are also invited to attend homework club which takes place twice a week and where teachers are available to assist if necessary. (Information re times and days of the homework club can be obtained from the front office).
4. Parents are encouraged to take an interest in the homework their daughters are doing.
5. Parents are advised to monitor their daughter's use of the Internet, have the computer in a public area and have a negotiated agreed time limit for usage.
6. Parents are encouraged to communicate any concerns they have about homework via the School Homework Record Book.

Below are specific guidelines regarding the amount of time students should be spending on Homework. At peak times of the year, e.g. exams, there will be a requirement to spend additional time on tasks.

### **YEARS 7 AND 8**

- Students should spend a maximum of 1.5 hours a night on homework, Monday-Friday.
- Weekend and holiday homework will not be given, but students should be encouraged to use this time to catch up on work mentioned in Guidelines for Students.

### **YEAR 9**

- Students should spend a maximum of 2 hours a night on homework, Monday- Friday.

#### **Weekends and Holidays:**

- Students will be encouraged to undertake activities mentioned in points 2 and 3 in Guidelines for Students, with a particular emphasis on revision of notes and working on ongoing assignments.
- Generally, students will not receive holiday homework. However, if in exceptional circumstances homework needs to be done, it must not exceed one hour per subject for the entirety of the holidays.

### **YEAR 10**

- Students should spend a maximum of 2-2½ hours a night on homework, Monday-Friday.

#### **Weekends and holidays:**

- Students should be encouraged to use this time to work on activities mentioned in points 2 and 3 in Guidelines for Students, with a particular emphasis on revision.
- Students may be given subject work during the holidays. This should not exceed 1.5 hours per subject for the entirety of the holidays. Students may also be required to gather resources or do preparatory reading. This, however, should be reasonable and achievable. Students are not to be given homework during Work Experience, with the exception of Work Education.

## YEAR 11

- Students should spend on average 2-3 hours a night on homework, Monday-Friday.

### Weekends and Holidays:

- Students should spend **no more than 4 hours** each weekend on research, homework, revision or other related activities.
- Students may be given subject work during the holidays. This should not exceed 2 hours per subject for the entirety of the holidays. Students may also be required to gather resources or do preparatory reading. This, however, should be reasonable and achievable.
- Students who do Art will be encouraged to view an exhibition on the holidays.

## YEAR 12

- Students are reminded that homework includes completion of work, revision, research and other related school tasks.
- Staff will work with students at the beginning of the year to assist them in determining work expectations and finding a balance between recreation and work.
- Generally, students should not need to spend more than 4 hours a night on homework, Monday-Friday.
- Students should spend 6 hours each weekend on homework.
- Students are expected to utilise study periods effectively, including time spent at home after early dismissals. This time provides an invaluable opportunity for students to complete homework and do some active research, revision or novel reading.
- Students would normally expect to receive homework during the holidays and should use holidays for revision and preparation for the next term.

It should be borne in mind that a happy, well balanced student has a greater chance of success in studies than one who is tense and tired from too much intense post-school work.

### Related documents:

- Safe Workplace
- Excursion and Incursions
- Camps

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