



# Avila College

## HOMEWORK POLICY

<b>Policy Title</b>	Homework Policy
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### Rationale

Avila College believes that homework is an important part of the learning process. It provides opportunities for reflection, revision, reinforcement of classroom learning and to practise and establish behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom. Research suggests that there is a positive correlation between homework and student achievement. Student learning improves when homework serves a clear purpose and is matched to both the skills of each individual student and to the current topics being taught in class. Homework also provides an opportunity for parents to participate in their daughter's education and enables them to familiarize themselves with ongoing class work.

### Types of homework

Avila College recognises that the amount of time students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities of students. The Victorian Government Education Department guidelines suggests that homework should

- be appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- be interesting, challenging and, where appropriate, open-ended
- be balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities
- be purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- be reviewed by teachers with feedback and support.

### The three main areas of homework are:

- Practice exercises/activities: providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
- Preparatory homework: providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons
- Assignments.

### Achieving Best Practice

### **Student Responsibilities:**

- Being aware of the importance of completing homework
- to take responsibility for their own learning
- to complete tasks as required on time to enhance their learning
- to accept responsibility by:
  - being aware of the school's homework policy
  - discussing homework expectations with parents or carers
  - completing homework tasks within set timeframes
  - following up on feedback given by teachers
  - seeking assistance when difficulties arise
  - organising their time to manage family commitments, participation in physical activity and sports, recreational and cultural activities and part time employment as appropriate

### **Subject Teacher Responsibilities:**

- To differentiate work based on the needs of students
- To carefully plan homework tasks which are varied, challenging, meaningful, related to class work and which suit learning needs
- To ensure students record homework and are clear on expectations
- To avoid busy work
- To develop co-ordinated homework timetables for students
- To help students plan individual homework timetables
- To give training in the specific skills needed for homework
- To follow up and acknowledge homework, provide timely and practical feedback where necessary
- To implement the policy and adhere to the guidelines

### **Parent Responsibilities:**

- To encourage and value learning and to be involved in their daughter's educational process
- To ensure that there is time set aside for homework
- To encourage their daughter to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
- To provide, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework.
- To encourage their daughter to develop a regular time to complete homework
- To encourage their daughter to take responsibility for her learning and for her homework and to support their daughter's completion of homework
- To assist their daughter to achieve a healthy balance between the amount of time spent on homework and other important, recreational activities
- To communicate with subject teachers and/or relevant teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their daughter's approach to the homework.

### **Implementation**

#### **Year Level Homework Time Guidelines for Students**

Students are expected to read (from a variety of sources eg novels, newspapers, non-fiction) for at least 15-30 minutes per night. Effective reading develops with practice and is the foundation of all homework. Homework (other than reading) should not be set during holidays for Years 7 and 8. Year 7 students should not have homework set for the first fortnight with the exception of music and languages.

It is recommended that students in Year 7-10 complete homework **five times** per week following the guidelines below:

**Year 7:** 1 - 1.5 hours

**Year 8:** 1 - 1.5 hours

**Year 9:** 1.5 - 2 hours

**Year 10:** 2 - 2.5 hours

It is recommended that students undertaking VCE studies complete the following amount of homework per week:

**Unit1/2:** 3-4 hours per subject per week

**Unit 3/4:** 4 - 5 hours per subject per week

<b>Policy approved by:</b>	Avila College Executive Team
<b>Next Review Date</b>	June 2021
<b>People Responsible</b>	Director of Learning and Teaching Curriculum Leaders