



# Mount Erin College

## Homework Policy

### Purpose

To outline to our school community the Department's and Mount Erin College'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 Mount Erin College.

### Rationale

Mount Erin College has developed this Homework Policy in consultation with the School Council to support student learning and wellbeing by:

- providing opportunities for students to apply new knowledge,
- providing opportunities to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills
- 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 defined as any task/s assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

## Policy

At Mount Erin College 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
- where appropriate, provide opportunities for parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.

The types of homework that teachers at Mount Erin College may include are:

- completing student unit plan exercises for mathematics
- completing science investigation exercises
- making or designing an artwork
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising spelling words
- practising sports skills
- practising words/phrases learnt in a language other than English
- 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
- applying new skills to home context such as:
  - o planning and cooking food, including following a recipe
  - o helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions and costs
  - o growing plants
  - o reviewing their favourite film or book
  - o writing a diary or journal entry
- engaging with parents in learning activities such as:
  - o rehearsing a presentation with parent/carers, and seeking their feedback
  - o interviewing a family member as part of a research project.

## 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 Mount Erin College** 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 Mount Erin College are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure homework tasks are purposeful – this means they are deliberately designed and planned to support student learning
- ensure the amount of homework set supports a student to engage with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities outside of school hours
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning
- set realistic timelines and communicate this appropriately
- consider the individual learning needs of students and adjust expectations where appropriate

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 (for older students).

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
- in dialogue, linking homework to:
  - previous experiences the child and/or parent/carer may have had
  - family culture(s), history(ies) and language(s)
  - relevant services, clubs, associations and community.
- ensuring there is a quiet study area for their child to complete homework.

## Support for students and parents

Mount Erin College 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 parents/carers to speak to their child's teacher. Students are encouraged to speak with their classroom teacher to receive help outside of class.

The 'Study Spot' is available during lunchtimes on some afternoons after school where students can receive supervised support from teachers. Senior Maths students may access Senior Lunchtime Help classes and all Art students have access to the Art Rooms one lunch time per week to ensure access to art equipment and materials. More information about these additional supports can be accessed by contacting the General Office.

## Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at parent information nights and parent teacher interviews
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## Further information and resources

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

## Policy Review and Approval

<b>Policy last reviewed</b>	<b>May 2023</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Principal and School Council</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>Consultation on this policy was with the school council May 2023</b>
<b>Next scheduled review date</b>	<b>2026</b>