Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Maryborough Education Centre’s (MEC) expectations for homework and at-home learning.

Scope

This policy applies to students in all year levels and to staff responsible for setting homework.

Policy

MEC 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 MEC 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 classroom teachers and Key Learning Area Leaders to avoid unreasonable workloads for students.

Prep to Year 4

In the early years, the objective of homework should be to practise and consolidate the concepts that have been introduced during class time. It is also intended to introduce the concepts of self-discipline and responsibility and prepare them for the upper grades.

Assigned homework tasks will build on concepts explored in the classroom and encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials.

Homework will mainly consist of daily reading to, with, or by parents/carer or older siblings.

Students are generally not expected to complete more than 30 minutes of homework per day and no homework tasks will be assigned over the weekends or during the holidays.

Years 5 to 6

In the upper year levels, the objective of homework is to build on the concepts of self-discipline, responsibility and initiative to prepare students for secondary school.

Students will be expected to spend 90 minutes per week on homework. In addition students may be required to finish classwork or complete an assignment during the weekend or school holidays.
Years 7 to 9

Homework tasks at these year levels may include daily independent reading, extended classwork, projects, essays, exercises and research.

Generally, students will be expected to spend between 45 to 90 minutes per day on homework tasks. Some tasks may be assigned to be completed during weekends and on the school holidays.

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.

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.

Students can expect to spend between 1 to 3 hours of homework per weeknight, and further study on weekends during assessment periods.

Shared expectations and responsibilities

MEC 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
- ensuring students use homework diaries to provide a regular communication between parents and the school. Diaries may be electronic.

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 individual student learning needs and abilities
- give students enough time to complete homework, considering home obligations and extracurricular activities
- assess homework and provide timely and practical feedback and support
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills
- ensure parents/carers are aware of MEC’s homework policy
- develop strategies within MEC to support parents/carers becoming active partners in homework
- offer a wide range of 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 MEC’s homework policy
- discussing with their parents/carers homework expectations
• 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.

It is expected that where possible parents/carers will support their children by:
• developing a positive and productive approach to homework
• ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities
• reading to them, 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 homework
• attending MEC events, productions or displays their child is involved in
• ensuring students keep a homework diary
• discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it to previous experiences
• linking homework and other learning activities to the families’ culture, history and language, linking with relevant services, clubs, associations and community
• ensuring there is a quiet study area for students to complete their homework tasks.

Support for students, parents and carers

Teachers at MEC understand that students have different learning styles, interests and abilities, and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If parents are concerned that their child may not understand the homework tasks that have been set for them, or is spending excessive time completing their homework, MEC encourages parents to speak to the classroom teacher or Year Level Coordinator.

Students who may benefit from support completing their homework tasks are encouraged to attend tutorials which are offered on a regular basis to some year levels during lunch time and after school.

Further Information and Resources

• School Policy and Advisory Guide:
  o Homework Guidelines

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s 3 year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on Wednesday 22nd August 2018

Signed:

Paul Rumpff
School Council President