

## HOMEWORK POLICY



### **Help for non-English speakers**

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the Victorian School of Languages (03) 9474 0500

### **PURPOSE**

To outline to our school community the Department's and the Victorian School of Languages (VSL) policy requirements relating to homework.

### **SCOPE**

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

### **RATIONALE**

The VSL 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 the VSL 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 the VSL may include are:

- completing consolidation exercises for Language learning
- completing written exercises
- making or designing a poster or diorama
- practising spelling words

- practising listening, reading, writing skills
- practising words/phrases learnt in the language other than English
- reading background material
- reading texts prior to class discussion
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work
- revising/preparing for tests, SACs, outcomes
- applying new skills to home context such as:
  - planning and cooking food, including following a recipe
  - helping to plan a day trip or holiday, including timings, directions and costs
  - reviewing their favourite film or book
  - writing a diary entry
- engaging with parents(where possible) in learning activities such as:
  - rehearsing a presentation with parent/carers, and seeking their feedback
  - 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 the VSL** 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 the VSL** 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 (so, they are not 'busy work' or where students 'finish off' work they did/could not complete in class)
- 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
- offer opportunities for families to engage in their children's learning

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/CARERS**

The VSL 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.

### **COMMUNICATION**

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

- Available publicly on our school's website [www.vsl.vic.edu.au](http://www.vsl.vic.edu.au)
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in our staff handbook
- Reminders Area newsletters, Bulletins and brochures
- Discussed in an annual staff briefing/meeting
- Discussed at Distance Education parent information nights/sessions
- Discussed at VCE student forums
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

### **RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

### **POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Policy last reviewed	August 2022
Consultation	School Council: 16/11/22
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2026