



NORTH GEELONG SECONDARY COLLEGE

Homework Policy

Rationale

At North Geelong Secondary College, learning is at the centre of everything we do. We expect every student to take every opportunity to make progress in his or her learning.

Homework is essential for students to complete unfinished classwork and, equally important, it is essential for students to practise new skills and review what has taken place in the classroom.

Homework helps students take responsibility for their own learning, develop independence, problem-solving skills and good study habits.

Importantly, homework helps forge a connection between school and home.

Value of homework

Current research shows that the quality of homework assigned is likely to be more important than the quantity. Research has established that homework has a positive effect on learning, particularly at the middle and secondary school levels (Xu, 2010; Zimmerman & Kitsantas, 2005). Although homework's effectiveness has been challenged by educators, parents, and students (Kohn, 2006), it continues to be an important educational supplement used by most teachers to enhance the learning experience of their students (Patall, Cooper, & Wynn, 2010). Overall, the effectiveness of homework is enhanced by providing students with choices among homework tasks, which will result in higher motivational and performance outcomes, students' autonomy, and intrinsic motivation (Patall et al., 2010).

Aim

Homework helps students by:

- complementing and reinforcing classroom learning
- fostering good lifelong learning and study habits
- providing an opportunity for students to become responsible for their own learning
- developing self-regulation processes such as goal-setting, self-efficacy, self-reflection and time management
- supporting partnerships with parents by connecting families with the learning of their children

Implementation

Receiving Homework:

Every student in the school must be completing homework every week. The teacher will allocate homework to students during class time. All homework will be recorded, either in the NGSC Student Planner (diary) or in electronic form (e.g. NGSC College Organiser). Students must write down the task as well as the due date.

Consequences of not submitting homework:

Students who do not complete homework will be required to make up the work as determined by their teacher. Homework Catch Up sessions may be organised for students if homework continues to be incomplete.

Homework requirements:

There are different *types* of homework. Some homework will be specific to a lesson; for example, finishing off some classwork that has not been completed. Some homework may be specific to a student, for example, completing an exercise on a skill that needs development. Some homework can be done regularly such as reading, revising learning that has been covered in class, studying for upcoming assessments/tests/exams etc.

Years 7, 8, 9

Time spent on homework tasks: -

Year 7: 30 to 45 minutes per weekday

Year 8: 45 to 60 minutes per weekday

Year 9: 45 to 90 minutes per weekday

Types of homework:

All Subjects	Completing classwork unfinished from class time Research projects and tasks Reading over work completed in class that day (e.g. 10/24/7 strategy) Identifying any areas not understood for follow up with the teacher
Literacy	Reading each night for at least 15 minutes Reading different kinds of texts at home – newspapers, non-fiction, magazines Writing tasks such as keeping a journal Grammar/spelling applications on iPad
Numeracy	Revising after each math's class Completing similar math's problems to what has been done Completing short problems solving tasks Practising times tables and number facts Mathletics

Years 10, 11, 12

Time spent on homework tasks: - ½ to 3 hours per weekday and up to 6 hours on weekends depending on course demands.

Types of homework:

All Subjects	Re-reading notes after each class (e.g. 10/24/7 strategy) Completing any unfinished classwork Reading texts and taking notes Creating summary notes for each topic Revising notes for SACs Project or research tasks Revising Math's work after each class
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What other tasks are appropriate if there is no set homework?

Read texts of any kind (novels, biographies, newspapers, magazines etc.)
Go over the work completed in class that day (e.g. 10/24/7 strategy)

The role of parents and carers

Parents and carers can help students with their homework by:

- encouraging a regular daily session to examine and complete homework
- helping to balance the time spent between homework and recreational activities
- asking how homework and class work is progressing, and acknowledging success
- checking if homework has been set
- ensuring students keep a homework diary
- reading texts set by teachers
- 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

Review: The Principal, Curriculum Committee and School Council will review the NGSC Homework Policy 2018 yearly.

Evaluation:

School Council last ratified this policy on...		REVIEW DATE February 2020
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