Homework Policy

1. Reasons for the policy
Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to become independent learners.

Students benefit from completing homework regularly. Homework helps students to develop organisational and time-management skills, self-discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources and personal responsibility for learning.

Homework also provides parents with another opportunity to participate in, and monitor, their child’s educational progress (DEECD, 2011).

2. Purpose of the policy
This policy aims to raise expectations and encourage successful practices regarding the setting, completion and evaluation of homework at Hallam Senior College.

3. Broad Guidelines
Homework should be:

i. Appropriate to the student’s skill level and age
ii. Purposeful, meaningful and relevant to classwork
iii. Set for students across all certificate areas (Year 10 VELS, VCE, VCAL & VET)
iv. Reviewed regularly by teachers with feedback and support provided
v. Set with an understanding of the recreational, family, cultural and employment activities that a student may be engaged in

Amount of homework
A successful homework routine will allow for the completion of class work and activities that develop learning. At the Senior Secondary level (Year 10 – 12) this will usually involve from one to three hours study per week night with extra time on the weekend depending on the student’s course of study. Please see 3.V

Homework and the successful completion of outcomes
Homework tasks may contribute towards the successful completion of outcomes in specific subjects. Where this occurs teachers will ensure that students have access to adequate resources to complete tasks.

Homework may take the form of:

Practice activities: practising new skills introduced at school eg Maths exercises, working on PE skills
Preparatory activities: students gain background knowledge so that they can be better prepared for a lesson eg collecting newspaper articles before a class, researching a topic
Revision activities: students revise topics so that they can have a deeper understanding eg. making summaries in preparation for exams
Developmental activities: students work on developing an idea over a period of time eg folio work for textiles or woodwork
Extension activities: students pursue knowledge individually and creatively eg visiting an art exhibition or virtual galleries, writing a short story about an issue
Work experience / work placement / community service: students undertake these to achieve competency in their certificate areas

Continued
4. Implementation

- Subject teachers, in collaboration with Learning and Engagement Leaders, will determine the nature and amount of homework to be set in each study area. As a result there may be variation in the type and amount of homework between subject areas and year levels.

- Learning & Engagement Leaders, in collaboration with the Homework and Supervised Study Coordinator, will advise parents about the homework expectations of the various subjects across the different certificate areas through information nights, the Program and Pathways Guide and regular newsletter items. Where appropriate homework will be accessible on the Learning Management System or Ultranet.

- The Homework and Supervised Study Coordinator will liaise with sub school staff to facilitate support for students through regular supervised homework sessions held at the school.

- Teachers will set regular homework and help students develop the organisational, time management and information skills necessary for independent learning.

- Teachers will make students aware when homework tasks contribute to the successful completion of outcomes in a subject.

- Teachers will review student homework regularly and provide appropriate feedback to students. The feedback might be written or oral.

- Teachers will report on each student's homework practice during parent teacher conferences and through the school's reporting system.

- Teachers will counsel students who do not complete homework and recommend that they participate in supervised homework and study sessions. Where appropriate teachers will apply sanctions for students who do not complete homework.

- Parents and caregivers will encourage students to set aside regular daily sessions to read/completing homework.

- Parents and caregivers will help students to balance the amount of time spent completing homework, watching television, playing computer games, and engaging in recreational/employment activities.

- Parents and caregivers will contact the student's Learning & Engagement Leader or the relevant teacher to discuss any problems the student may be having with homework.

- Students will keep a record of homework requirements and complete homework in a timely manner.

- Students will understand that homework tasks may contribute to the successful completion of outcomes in certain subjects.

- Students will seek assistance and feedback from teachers about homework. They will make use of private study periods for the completion of homework and participate in supervised study sessions as necessary.

5. Evaluation etc.

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

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