Parents and care givers can help their children by:

- encouraging them to take increasing responsibility for their learning and organisation;
- observing and acknowledging their success and asking how their home and class work is progressing;
- checking whether home work/study has been set and ensuring they keep a home work/study diary;
- helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing home work/study, watching television, playing computer games and engaging in other leisure or recreational activities;
- attending school events, displays or productions in which their children are involved;
- encouraging them to set aside a regular daily session to read and complete home work/study;
- setting an example by reading themselves;
- contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any problems their children are having with home work/study;
- helping them to complete home work/study by discussing key questions or directing them to resources. Usually it is better to encourage children to complete home work/study themselves;
- reading texts set by teachers. Discussing their child's response to the texts and asking to see work they complete in relation to these texts, and
- discussing home work/study in their first language, where English is not the main language spoken at home, and linking it with their previous experiences.

For further information or support contact:

Your Mini-School Principal
Your Year Level Manager
Your Form Teacher
The College Curriculum Manager

Phone (03) 9438 8500

St Helena Secondary College, Wallowa Road, Eltham North 3095, Phone (03) 9438 8500 Email st.helena.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au Web www.sthelena.vic.edu.au

St Helena Secondary College

How much...

Homework?

A brief guide to the College's Homework Policy.

Dare to be excellent.

Home Work/Study helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. Parents are strongly encouraged to contact the Curriculum Manager or the appropriate Year Level Manager at the College with concerns and/or questions relating to Home Study.

Homework is an opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. Parents, in partnership with the College, should encourage their children to establish good home work/study patterns throughout their schooling.

Students should record details of home work/study expectations in their Planners and the Planners are to provide one means of regular communication between parents and the College.

Failure by students to complete home work/study on a regular basis is followed up with parents.

College Reports indicate a students' completion of regular home work/study at a satisfactory level.

Guidelines:

Middle Years (Years 7-9)

45 minutes (Year 7) to 90 minutes (Year 9) per day

- Should include daily independent reading and, if appropriate, music practice.
- Should be coordinated to avoid unreasonable workloads for students.
- May include extension of class work, projects and assignments, essays and research.
- Homework should not be set for school holidays.

Later Years (Years 10-12)

Homework is to average 1-3 hours per day with up to 6 hours on weekends during peak assessment and/or VCE SAC preparation. (DEECD Guidelines)

- At this level, students should be independent learners but parents need to be clear about the College expectations and should discuss issues and concerns with their childre

Set home work/study is:

- Appropriate to a students' skill level and age.
- Interesting, challenging and, where appropriate, open ended.
- Given with sufficient notice for completion.
- Balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.
- Purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum.
- Appropriately assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided.

Types of home work/study that meet these requirements include:

Practice exercises

providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly-acquired skills, eg spelling words, practicing words/phrases (LOTE), reading for pleasure, writing essays and other creative tasks, playing a music instrument, improving physical and sports skills and revision.,

Preparatory Home work/study

providing opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons, eg reading background material for History, English texts for class discussion, researching topics, collecting articles, revising information analysing visuals/graphics.

Elaboration Activities

encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, such as writing a book review, making or designing an art work, completing follow-up Science investigation exercises, researching local news items, finding information on the Internet, monitoring advertising in the newspaper, collecting of appropriate resources and finishing off class work.