

Independent Learning Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the General Office.

PURPOSE

To outline to our school community the Department's and Upwey High School's policy requirements relating to work completed outside of school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for setting and monitoring independent learning tasks at Upwey High School.

RATIONALE

Upwey High school has developed this Independent Learning 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 families.

DEFINITIONS

Independent learning tasks are assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours.

POLICY

At Upwey High School all independent learning tasks 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 families to partner in their child's learning.

The types of independent learning tasks that teachers at Upwey High school will include are:

- completing consolidation exercises for Mathematics
- completing Science investigation exercises
- making or designing an artwork
- practising and playing musical instruments
- practising spelling words
- practising sports skills
- practising words/phrases learnt in a language other than English

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- reading background material for a subject
- reading English texts prior to class discussion
- reading for pleasure
- researching topics associated with set class work
- revising/preparing for tests
- 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
 - growing plants
 - reviewing their favourite film or book
 - writing a diary entry
- engaging with parents 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
 - creating and revising master notes (senior school)

SHARED EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Independent learning is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students, and their families. To get the most out of these tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Upwey High School** are to:

- advise teachers, students and families of independent learning expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the Independent Learning Policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Upwey High School** are to:

- set tasks that are curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the needs of student's skill level and age
- ensure 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 tasks and provide timely and practical feedback
- ensure the number of independent learning tasks set support 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
- Teaching Teams provide consistent task expectations

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- being aware of the school's Independent Learning Policy
- discussing independent learning expectations with their families
- accepting responsibility for the completion of 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)
- Check Daymap for task expectations

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Responsibilities and expectations for **families** are:

- to develop a routine with their child around when the best time to complete tasks is
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on independent learning tasks and recreational, family, and cultural activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the tasks
- discussing tasks with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in dialogue, linking independent learning 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 independent learning tasks
- Check Daymap for task expectations

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Upwey High School understands that students have different learning strengths, preferences and interests and may approach learning activities and homework differently. If families are concerned their child may not understand the tasks that have been set or is spending a long period of time completing their tasks, we encourage families to speak to their child's teacher.

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

- Included in staff induction process
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Reminders on Audiri
- Discussed at re induction staff briefing
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Discussed at student forums
- Hard copy available from the General Office upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Homework – Department Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	Aug 2023
Consultation	Curriculum Committee and Education Committee
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	Aug 2026