

Croydon Community School & OPTIONS

Homework – At Home Learning

Policy



PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline to students, parents/carers and school staff Croydon Community School & OPTIONS expectations for homework and at-home learning, as it relates to the Big Picture Education Learning design.

SCOPE

This policy applies to students in all year levels and staff responsible for supporting at-home learning within the Big Picture Education Design model.

POLICY

Croydon Community School & OPTIONS acknowledges that at-home learning should be tailored and adapted to suit the personal and developmental needs of students.

Advisors at Croydon Community School & OPTIONS are encouraged to support students to do home study on the learning areas within their Individual Learning Plan and their projects, passions and interests.

Guidelines for Homework at Croydon Community School & OPTIONS

Year 7/8

In the early years, the objective of at-home learning should be to allow students to immerse themselves within the Big Picture design. They are encouraged to read extensively, and practice and consolidate the learning concepts that have been introduced during Advisory time. Projects students are working on in Advisory encourage students to use their initiative by gathering additional information or materials. Students are supported and encouraged to share their learning with their families/carers, and to reflect on their learning.

Year 9

At this level, the objective of student at-home learning is to build on their Individual Learning Plan projects, with responsibility and initiative, to prepare students for assessment and Exhibitions. This includes reading a range of materials/texts as they relate to the student interests. Any assigned at-home tasks will relate to the students Individual Learning Plan projects, or Advisory projects.

Years 10, 11 and 12

At this level, the objective of at-home learning is that students are expected to undertake regular studies at home that relate to their Individual Learning Plan, future pathway investigations, and passions/interests, including reading autobiographies, the development and completion of a senior thesis proposal and project, autobiography, informational interviews, Internship projects, and other Advisory task requirements. There may be a requirement for at home learning through TAFE courses students may undertake. This will culminate in a rigorous and relevant Graduation portfolio at the end of Year 12.

Shared expectations and responsibilities

Students are encouraged to continue to research and develop/deepen their learning through their engagement and interest within the Big Picture Design principles and explicit learning goals. Croydon Community School & OPTIONS will support students by:

- fostering lifelong learning and connecting families with the learning of their children, as part of the Big Picture design and the Exhibition process.
- ensuring the school's homework/at-home learning policy is relevant to the needs of students

- advising parents/carers of homework/at-home learning expectations at the beginning of the school year, and providing them with a copy of the homework policy.
- Advisors at Croydon Community School & OPTIONS will:
- equip students with the skills to solve problems.
- encourage real-life problem solving, logical thinking, creativity and imagination.
- set varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to their students Individual Learning Plan and differentiate to suit the students' learning needs and develop academic rigour within these.
- give students enough time to complete projects, considering home obligations and circumstances, and extracurricular activities
- provide timely and practical feedback and support
- help students develop organisational and time-management skills.
- ensure parents/carers are aware of the school's homework/at-home learning policy.
- develop strategies within the school to support parents/carers becoming active partners in their students Individual Learning Plan projects and passions.
- offer a wide range of opportunities for families to engage in their children. Within the Big Picture Design, families are enrolled too.

It is expected that students will take responsibility for their own learning by:

- being aware of the school's homework/at-home learning policy, and continuing research and investigation outside of school, to be included in their projects. This can be work/research saved and uploaded at school by USB, handwritten notes and reflections, and, aged 15 and over, evidence of research into Internship opportunities.
- discussing with their parents/carers these expectations
- accepting responsibility for their learning goals and success.
- following up on comments made by Advisors
- 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.

It is expected that parents/carers will support their children by:

- developing a positive and productive approach to homework/at-home learning as it relates to their child's Individual Learning Plan and passions/interests.
- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational activities.
- talking to Advisors about any concerns they have about the homework/at-home learning.
- attending their students Exhibition, school events, productions or displays their child is involved in.

Support for students, parents/carers

Advisors at Croydon Community School & OPTIONS understand that students have different learning styles and interests and may approach learning activities differently. If you are concerned that your child may not be interested or completing any of their learning goals and projects, Advisors are contactable at all times for family meetings and to offer support and strategies to re-engage the student in their learning.

Croydon Community School & OPTIONS has in place a range of passion-based learning programs that students may select including:

- Reading club at the Croydon library
- Photography
- Art
- Multimedia
- Performing Arts
- Mechanics
- Hospitality

Students may be referred to external programs that reflect students Individual Learning Plans and passions by their Advisor in consultation with their parents/carers. It is expected that ALL students will find an adult mentor and Learning through Internship placement that reflects their potential pathways by end of Year 10, and families are encouraged to support their student in this process

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

School Policy and Advisory Guide:

- [Homework Guidelines](#)
- [Homework Expectations](#)
- www.bigpicture.org.au
- Professional Learning

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on May 2019 and is scheduled for review on May 2022.