

Managing Student Workload for Online Learning @ Home

Tēnā koutou katoa

We are aware that some of our students are finding the amount of work set by teachers in individual classes each week a challenge. Our initial guide was for students to do one hour work for each hour of usual class time. Due to the fact that all students work at different paces, some students have found they are getting too much work and others are getting too little.

We have surveyed both our staff and a considerable number of students to gauge their thoughts on this matter. The results indicated that students were mostly happy with the amount and type of work they are receiving.

In order to clarify, we have communicated the following guidelines to our teaching staff:

- Work for students will be set on Google Classroom or another suitable platform advised by the teacher by 10.00am on the day they would have had that class as per the usual timetable, or alternatively they could set work for the week.
- Time allocated for each class to be no more than the timetabled lessons a week. This means that if they have a junior class three times a week, no more than three hours work can be set a week. Any online Zoom/Google Meet classes are included in this time and must take place during a normal timetabled period. For example, one period Zoom/Google Meet class plus two hours work maximum. We have recommended that senior classes only have three hours of work set each week.
- Feedback once a week to students about something specific.
- If a teacher sets an assessment to the students, this is to be the only work they are expected to complete for that period of time for that subject. Students must continue to allocate time to their other subjects.
- Teachers will give each student a Weekly Note grade of between 1 and 5 for engagement.

We are well aware of the demands on our students and our focus is for their hauora/well being. We want students to try to get through as much of the work that is set by each teacher during the week but understand that this may not happen.

However, based on our guidelines for staff, your son should not have more than five hours a day of school work to do. They need to look at how they are managing their time and the tasks that are given so that they don't spend an uneven amount of time on certain tasks over others.

We have included an outline produced by the Social Studies Department which may be a good planning guide for your son to help him prioritise his time, while keeping his hauora at the heart.

Ngā mihi nui

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