



HOME STUDY POLICY

It is a requirement for all Queensland State Schools to develop a school homework policy in consultation with the school community.

At Baringa State Secondary College we believe that home study is effective in supporting learning when it has a clear purpose and is clearly related to the Australian Curriculum. Our vision is that our students are empowered to be confident, creative and aspirational about their chosen futures. A College commitment to home study will support our students to review, reflect and reinforce what they have learned every day. Home study provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning and develop a positive pattern of behaviour for lifelong learning beyond the classroom.

We value purposeful and relevant homework that is appropriate to the phase of learning and is varied and differentiated to individual learning needs. We aim to provide home study that poses problems for students to solve that requires them to apply what they've learned in new ways, or asks them to stretch to the next level. We commit to quality home study tasks that have a clear academic purpose and promotes student ownership of learning. Our expectation is that each student will be responsible and will prioritise their learning by engaging in revision, review and reflection of the days' learning. Home study will support our students to develop good learning and good time management routines. Students engaging in home study will be investing in their future and setting a foundation for positive learning routines. This way students will be "Learning today, Leading tomorrow".

Our College values home study as a way of students engaging in focused, deliberate and individualised practicing of thinking and learning. Home study complements student learning and can be a variety of differing tasks.

Home study may be a variety of differing tasks and may come in the form of:

- revision and reflection to consolidate learning (practise for mastery).
- applying knowledge and skills in new contexts (a topic of interest, an authentic local issue).
- pursuing knowledge individually and imaginatively (investigating, researching, writing, designing, making)
- preparing for forthcoming classroom learning (collecting relevant materials and information)
- handouts/textbook/computer based activities
- assignment drafting
- reading
- note taking, revising and studying
- completion and extension of class work, projects and research

Home Study Conditions

- For home study to be effective, students are encouraged the following:
- **A regular routine and time** – students will engage more in routines that are consistent.
- **A study space** - students are encouraged to designate one room or area to a study space. When they access this space their brain will go into study mode sooner. The study space should just be used for studying. Making it a designated study area will preserve its association with learning.



- Develop a **weekly home planner** to commit to the time and learning.
- **Lighting** - being mindful of the lighting is important – light shining directly into your eyes is distracting and unproductive for study. Ensuring that you have sufficient light is equally as important.
- **Mobile devices** – students are encouraged to turn off phones or at least switch them to airplane mode. Phones can be the biggest distraction and will affect student focus.
- **Get comfortable** – students must be comfortable, this will ensure that their brain is switched on, however they must not get too comfortable as they may go into relax mode.
- **Keep it positive** - home study has a lot of negative associations, please remember that studying is just another word for learning. Keep your home study space tidy to keep it positive.

Responsibilities of the College Community

As a College community, we all have an important role to play in the implementation and commitment of the home study policy. When teachers, parents and students work together as a team, the collective outcome for the student is improved outcomes for learning.

Students

Students can take responsibility for their own learning and engaging in becoming independent and capable learners by:

- engaging in home study for the recommended time period for their year level (see guide below)
- being aware of the College’s expectations and guidelines for home learning
- discussing with their parents or caregivers expectations around home study tasks
- accepting responsibility for the completion of tasks within set time frames
- following up on feedback provided by teachers
- seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time to manage the various activities they engage in
- recording home study on their devices for further reference

Expected Home Study guide for Students

| Year level | Minimum time requirement |
|------------|--------------------------|
| 7-8 | 15 minutes per subject |
| 9-10 | 20 minutes per subject |
| 11-12 | 30 minutes per subject |

Teachers

Teachers can help students establish a routine of regular, independent home study by:

- ensuring the College Home Study Policy is implemented consistently across all year levels
- setting home study tasks that support students to consolidate their learning within a flexible timeframe
- clearly communicating the purpose, expectations and benefits of all home study tasks
- checking home study regularly and providing positive recognition of the efforts of students
- providing timely and appropriate feedback about home study tasks
- selecting tasks that are varied, challenging and directly related to class work
- selecting tasks that are purposeful and appropriate to students’ learning needs
- explicitly teaching strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities for practice through home study activities



- discussing with parents and caregivers any issues concerning their child's home study tasks and suggesting strategies to assist with home study requirements
- providing assistance when difficulties arise

Parents and Caregivers

We encourage our family members to get involved in their student's learning and talk to them about their learning by:

- encouraging students to organise their time and take responsibility for their learning
- giving students assistance where required to complete tasks and helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing home study tasks
- communicating with teachers to discuss any concerns about the nature of home study or their child's approach to the learning
- valuing home study and speaking positively about why it is important
- assisting students to balance home study and ensure that students have sufficient time for family, recreation, community and cultural pursuits and a balanced lifestyle.

