

# HOME STUDY POLICY

## Preamble

Home Study (also known as homework) is school related activity pursued at home.

## Rationale

Mount Ridley Prep – 12 College recognises that Home Study activities are a valuable aspect of the teaching and learning process and that it complements and reinforces classroom learning. Home Study also develops lifelong learning and study habits and provides an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning. At Mount Ridley Prep – 12 College, we believe that Home Study is also an effective means of fostering understanding and communication between the home and school.

At Mount Ridley Prep-12 College Home Study is defined as tasks assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours. Home Study is aimed 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 parents/carers.

## Guiding Principles

At Mount Ridley Prep – 12 College, we recognise that by completing meaningful, regular Home Study, students are supported to develop organisational and time management skills. Home Study also promotes self-discipline, skills in using out-of-school resources and a personal responsibility for learning.

## Implementation

The following guidelines will be adhered to in relation to the application of this policy:

- At the beginning of each year, parents are informed of the Home Study expectations for each year level.
- Students are to take responsibility for completing their own Home Study tasks.
- Home Study activities are assessed with feedback and support provided by teachers.
- Home Study tasks will be adjusted by teachers to meet the individual needs of students.
- Home Study tasks may include open-ended tasks, tasks set to reinforce particular skills or a combination of both.
- Parents and students may gain access to Home Study support via the Mount Ridley Prep -12 College Compass Parent Portal, accessed through the school website.
- From Level 2 onwards, students will have access to Home Study support within the College.

Homework is a shared responsibility between the school, teachers, students and their parents/carers. In order to get the most out of homework tasks, it is important that everyone understands their obligations and responsibilities.

Responsibilities and expectations for **leaders at Mount Ridley Prep 12 College** are to:

- advise teachers, students and parents/carers of homework expectations at the beginning of the school year and provide them with access to the Home Study policy.

Responsibilities and expectations for **teachers at Mount Ridley Prep 12 College** are to:

- set homework that is curriculum-aligned and appropriate to the student's skill level and age
- ensure homework 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 homework and provide timely and practical feedback
- ensure the amount of homework set supports 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.

Responsibilities and expectations for **students** are:

- being aware of the school's homework policy
- discussing homework expectations with their parents/carers
- accepting responsibility for the completion of homework 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).

Responsibilities and expectations for **parents/carers** are:

- ensuring there is a balance between the time spent on homework and recreational, family and cultural activities
- talking to teachers about any concerns they have about the homework
- discussing homework with their child in their first language, if English is not the main language spoken at home,
- in dialogue, linking homework 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 homework.

At Mount Ridley Prep – 12 College all homework 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 parents/carers to partner in their child's learning.

Teachers help their students with Home Study tasks by:

- Setting regular Home Study activities to help students establish a Home Study routine.
- Setting varied, challenging and meaningful tasks related to class work that are appropriate to the student's learning needs.
- Giving students enough time to complete Home Study, taking into account home obligations and extra-curricular activities.
- Assessing Home Study and providing practical feedback and support.
- Helping students develop the organisational and time management skills needed for them to be responsible for their own learning.
- Ensuring that students have skills in listening, researching and presenting.
- Ensuring parents and caregivers are aware of the College's Home Study policy.
- Developing strategies to support parents to become active partners in Home Study.
- Parents help their students with Home Study tasks by:
  - providing them with time to complete set tasks;
  - supporting them with the completion of these tasks; and,
  - following up with the class/mentor teacher if Home Study tasks are not being completed.

### **EARLY YEARS SCHOOL (Prep – Year 4)**

Home Study will consist mainly of:

- Reading activities to, with and by parents
- Simple tasks associated with classroom activities
- Gathering of additional information or materials

For students in Prep – Year 2, Home Study will generally require 15 minutes per day, or up to 1.5 hours per week. For students in Years 3 and 4, Home Study will generally not exceed 30 minutes per day, or up to 3 hours per week.

When setting Home Study tasks, teachers will consult with all members of their teaching team, particularly if the Home Study task is related to a specialist program. Reading Logs are used to record daily reading activities.

### **PROJECTS**

Projects may be set as part of Home Study and need to include the following:

- An explanation of the link between classroom learning and the project,
- An emphasis on the fact that the project is directed at students, not parents,
- An explanation of how and when parents can provide assistance,
- Modification of tasks for students with special needs if necessary, and
- Assessment criteria that has been developed in consultation with the students.

### **JUNIOR YEARS SCHOOL (Years 5 – 7)**

Home Study will consist mainly of:

- Reading activities
- Continuation of classroom work, assignments, essays and research
- Consolidation of the work the student has been focusing on in class each week
- Numeracy skill sheets

In the Middle School, Home Study is the student's responsibility and should be spread out over the week in order to foster independence and organisational skills. For students in Years 5 and 6, Home Study will require between 30 and 45 minutes per day, or up to 4 hours per week. For students in Years 7, Home Study will require between 45 and 60 minutes per day, or up to 7 hours per week

When setting Home Study tasks, teachers will consult with all members of their teaching team, particularly if the Home Study task is related to a specialist program. Diaries and visual planners are to be used to record Home Study requirements and parents are encouraged to check their child's diary each day to determine the Home Study requirements for that evening.

### **MIDDLE / SENIOR YEARS SCHOOL (Years 8 – 12)**

Home Study will consist mainly of:

- Revision of class work
- Completion of assignments, essays and research
- Preparation for presentations
- Revision for school assessed coursework (SAC) or examinations

In the Senior School, Home Study is the student's responsibility and should be recorded in the student diary each day. Parents are still encouraged to continue to check their child's diary each day to determine the Home Study requirements for that evening. The following time guidelines exist at each Year level:

Year 8: 6 – 10 hours per week	Year 11: 12 – 15 hours per week
Year 9: 7 – 10 hours per week	Year 12: 15 – 18 hours per week
Year 10: 10 – 12 hours per week	

### **SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS AND CARERS**

Teachers at Mount Ridley Prep – Year 12 College understand that students have different learning styles and interests, and may approach learning activities and home study differently. If you are concerned that your child may not understand home study activities, we encourage you to speak to their teachers, Mentor teacher and/or Team Leader.

Mount Ridley College has in place a number of learning programs that students may attend before or after school or during lunchtimes to assist with areas of need, including:

<b>Learning Program</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>When</b>
Homework and Tutoring Club	Years 7 to 12 students	Wednesday and Thursday after school

### **EVALUATION**

As part of the College review cycle this policy will be reviewed every three years.

Date policy ratified: 2021  
Date of next review: 2024