ROBINA SHS HOME STUDY POLICY

Study at home provides students with opportunities to consolidate their classroom learning, pattern behaviour for lifelong learning and involve family members in their learning.

Home Study: The Changing Nature of School Work at Home:

Students need to develop their study habits in the early years to ensure they are well prepared for the rigours of the senior curriculum. As students progress through high school, the greater demands for study and research overtake short term tasks such as set homework. For this reason the type of work at home will progress from mainly homework in the junior phase to mainly study in the senior phase, preparing for long term project work or assignments. To encapsulate all of these aspects the term “Home Study” is used.

Guide for Time Spent on Home Study:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase of Learning</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Suggested Hours per Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Secondary</td>
<td>7 to 8</td>
<td>4 to 5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle School</td>
<td>9 to 10</td>
<td>5 to 7 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Secondary</td>
<td>11 to 12</td>
<td>5 to 9 hours</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In the Senior Phase the amount of time devoted to home study and independent study will vary according to the student’s learning goals and assessment schedule. While teachers may provide students with additional work relevant to their learning which the student may undertake at home, young people during this phase should generally be independent learners exercising their own judgement as to the out-of-hours’ time they devote to their studies.

Home study is set in three ways:

1. By the teacher with a set time for short-term completion
2. By the assessment program where an assignment is completed over a longer period.
3. By the student as they preview and review classwork.

Home study that enhances student learning:

- is purposeful and relevant to students needs
- is appropriate to the capability of the student
- develops the student’s independence as a learner
- is varied, challenging and clearly related to class work
- allows for student commitment to recreational, employment, family, cultural activities.
Home study can complement work undertaken in class through:

• revision and critical reflection to consolidate learning
• applying knowledge /skills in new contexts
• pursuing knowledge imaginatively by investigating, researching or designing.
• preparing for forthcoming learning by collecting relevant materials and/or information.

Teachers will:

• set home study on a regular basis.
• clearly communicate the purpose, benefits and expectations of all home study and ensure that this links to the learning goals.
• check home study regularly and provide timely and useful feedback.
• explicitly teach strategies to develop organisational and time-management skills and providing opportunities to practice these strategies through home study.
• discuss with parents and caregivers any developing problems concerning their child’s home study and suggesting strategies to assist.

Students can take responsibility for their own learning by:

• setting a regular routine and having short breaks every 30 – 45 minutes.
• accepting responsibility for the completion of home study 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.

Parents and caregivers can help their children by:

• encouraging them to take responsibility for their learning
• developing together a weekly learning planner
• setting an area where they can learn without unnecessary distractions.
• asking clarifying questions that help students summarise what they have learned.
• encouraging them to read and to take an interest in and discuss current local, national and international events
• contacting the relevant teacher to discuss any concerns regarding home study
• helping them to balance the amount of time spent completing home study, watching television, playing computer games, playing sport, engaging in recreational activities

It is important to note that a productive parent role is encouraging and demonstrates interest.