

## **Home Study Policy**

### **Home Study Requirements**

The essence of the St George College motto is *Forever Excelling*. The central focus of our work at St George College is continuous improvement in students' learning outcomes.

Home Study is an integral component of our learning program and a critical contributor to improving the learning outcomes of students. Similarly, Home Study is an important way to build and maintain the valuable partnership that is required with parents in the education process of their children.

### **Broad Purpose of Home Study**

At St George College the Home Study requirements serve a number of purposes throughout the schooling of students, including:

- The development of organisational, time management and study skills that are the basis for life long learning and intellectual growth.
- The development of skills in self-discipline and self-motivation and the opportunity for practice and reflection.
- Increased opportunities for reading, which is a key way to improve literacy skills including spelling and writing for a variety of purposes.
- Additional information for the consideration of parents and teachers about individual student's progress and learning needs.

At St George College Home Study tasks are given to all students on a daily basis, including weekends. Parents are encouraged to help their children establish good study habits, by providing a quiet, well-lit space, monitoring that set work is done and listening to students read. It is useful for parents to help students to establish and maintain a routine time for Home Study.

During the Middle and Senior Years of schooling the intensity, frequency, duration and complexity of Home Study tasks are increased. This approach reflects our belief that high academic achievement depends in part on a sound pattern of Home Study.

In supporting parents to be kept informed about Home Study tasks set by teachers the school "Diary" serves as an important means of communication between the home and the College. It is our expectation that parents will see their children's diary daily and will sign it weekly.

### **Reading Requirements**

Reading is a daily Home Study task set for every student. Teachers carefully monitor the reading levels and patterns of students. Teachers ensure that students are both supported and extended in their reading skills. Reading also needs to be monitored by parents at home as it is probably the single most important strategy in extending vocabulary, improving spelling and broadening students world knowledge.

Because of the bilingual nature of our College we feel it is important for students to practice their reading in Greek as well as in English. For this reason a specific reading package, is set for Home Study for all students from Reception to 12.

### **Age Appropriate Assignments**

Home Study tasks given to students are specifically designed for their age and learning level, their cognitive development, concentration span and their capacity to retain and manipulate information.

For example, practicing short, repetitive tasks are considered appropriate for Reception and Year 1 students. By Year 7, students move progressively to assignments which may involve research and presentation which span a number of weeks' work and which require the integration of skills and curriculum areas.

As students progress through their schooling years at St George College, Home Study assignments will change from short to longer, from simple to more complex, from teacher directed to student directed.

By the Middle Years students, move progressively to assignments which are likely to involve research and presentation and can span over a number of weeks and require the integration of a range of skills and a number of curriculum areas.

So as to ensure that our Senior Secondary students are well prepared to achieve their SACE all assignments are to be completed at the standard accepted by SSABSA.

### **Age Appropriate Time Allocations**

#### **Guide for assigning Home Study Tasks at particular year levels:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Time - Modern Greek</b>
<b>Reception</b>	Daily reading / sight words	15 minutes	5 minutes
<b>Year 1</b>	Daily reading / spelling + 1 day of spelling	15 minutes	5 minutes
<b>Year 2</b>	Daily reading / spelling / maths + 2 days of spelling	20 minutes	10 minutes
<b>Year 3</b>	Daily reading / + 3 days of other assignments	30 minutes	10 minutes
<b>Year 4</b>	Daily reading + $\frac{3}{4}$ days of other assignments	30/45 minutes	10 minutes

<b>Year 5</b>	Daily reading + 4 days of other assignments	30/45 minutes	15 minutes
<b>Year 6</b>	Daily reading + 4 days of other assignments	80 minutes	15 minutes
<b>Year 7</b>	Daily reading + 4 days of other assignments	80 minutes	20 minutes
<b>Year 8</b>	Daily reading + 5 days of other assignments	100 minutes	35 minutes
<b>Year 9</b>	Daily reading + 5 days of other assignments	120 minutes	35 minutes
<b>Years 10 - 12</b>	<b>As determined by Specialist Teachers but unlikely to be any less than 3.5 hours at Year 10 and any less than 5 hours at Year 12</b>		

While the above information is given as a general guide, it is important to bear in mind individual differences in the length of time it takes students to complete home studies tasks. Some students take longer than others to complete tasks, others need more support to complete work successfully.

At all times educators and parents need to be working together so that each student's progress is monitored and their learning needs are identified and appropriately met.