

16 April 2020



Home-based
learning

Term 2 Arrangements for Weeks 1–5 (20 April – 22 May)

Dear Parents and Caregivers

As you would be aware, for the first 5 weeks of Term 2 we will be implementing a home-based model of learning. Advice regarding the model of learning for the remainder of Term 2 will be provided by the department by mid-May 2020.

Attending School

From the start of Term 2 until 22 May 2020 inclusive, all students will be learning from home, except for students in the following categories:

- Children of essential workers on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made. Essential worker means any worker who must continue to attend their workplace for essential business during this time.
- Vulnerable children include children identified by schools or who are currently receiving services from Child Safety or are subject to a youth justice order.

In her press release on Monday 13 April, the Premier stated: “What this means is that from the start of term two, all students who can learn from home are to stay at home.” And: “We are committed to doing whatever it takes to slow the spread of COVID-19.” “My message to every Queensland school community is very clear. Stay at home. Learn at home.”

While this will present some challenges for parents who are themselves working from home, these are not normal times and there is no business as usual.

Where a student is learning at home, their parent or carer is responsible for their safety and wellbeing at home or elsewhere.

Each week, an attendance text will be sent to all families requesting information regarding intentions for the following week.

Students at school

- Students will meet at the Sports Hall on Monday 20 April. Classes will be in F-Block.
- Students must wear either their full day or sports uniform.
- It is essential that students have their devices and writing materials.
- The tuckshop will be open with limited options, with pre-ordering in the morning and cashless modes of payment preferred.
- If a student who was expected to attend school has not arrived, a text message absence notification to parents will occur. Any late arrivals or early departures will also be recorded.

- A member of staff will supervise small groups of students while they complete the work provided virtually by their classroom teacher, following all social distancing protocols. (Please be aware students at school will have no face-to-face access to their timetabled teachers.)
- We will be strictly adhering to social distancing guidelines in classrooms and the playground for the small number of students who attend. We will do everything we can to ensure student health and safety by having no assemblies, group activities, team sports or playground games. The courts and ovals will all be closed and students will be expected to observe distancing expectations at all times in designated areas.

Reminder of how home-based learning will occur

Full details of our process can be found in the document provided on 2 April 2020 → [here](#)

Teachers will email parents and students at the start of the week and then every second lesson. This will occur at the time that corresponds with the start of the student's scheduled lesson as per their timetable. The email will contain the instructions regarding what students will be working on in the OneNote over the next two lessons in their timetable.

In the OneNote, the student will find all of the resources necessary for their learning and a video from their teacher with the instructions and modelling around the learning the students are doing over the next 2 lessons.

Lessons will take from 40 to 70 min, depending on the student's grasp of the learning and the degree of difficulty of the concept.

Remember, 24/7 connectivity is not required; however it is beneficial for students to have periodic times daily to check emails and update their OneNote. When syncing OneNote notebooks for the first time, longer download time may be required.

Lessons start at the times shown:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Period 1: | 9.00am |
| 1st Break | 10.15am |
| Period 2: | 10.30am |
| 2nd Break | 11.45am |
| Period 3: | 12.00pm |
| Lunch: | 1.15pm |
| Period 4: | 1.45pm |

Roll Marking

To ensure that the learning and supervision needs of all students are met, schools are required to perform a 'check-in' with all students on a daily basis. The form teacher will be responsible for the daily check-in.

At 9.30am, the Form Teacher will send an email to their Form Class with the subject "Roll Marking".

Students must reply to the email by 10.00am with a quick good morning message. For students who have a designated spare lesson in Period 1 on any particular day or for any absent teachers, the email will be sent by Fiona Carter (fcart10@eq.edu.au) and students will reply to this email.

We will be required to keep records of attendance and students who do not reply will be marked as absent, and as per our process, a text message will be sent to parents regarding this 'absence'. Parents are expected to respond to this text with a reason for their child not continuing their learning that day e.g. student is ill.

Access to learning resources

We understand that some families may not have access to IT resources. Over the last week of Term 1 we provided loan laptops and access to sim cards for those in need.

If your child still does not have access to a device and the internet, please contact the school and over the coming days we will endeavour to find a solution. You can contact the school by phone or email your IT support queries to ITsupport@nerangshs.eq.edu.au

For those families with no internet access, we can look at providing pre-loaded USBs or paper copies of the lessons. Some faculties have already provided booklets for specialised courses of learning.

Preparing for home learning

I acknowledge that this is a challenging time for you and your child as you prepare to help them to learn from home. Our teachers and school staff have been working hard to plan for this approach and have developed learning programs that best suit the students at our school.

You may wish to explore the Department of Education's range of learning@home parent resources online at <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning-at-home>. The department is also working with television networks to develop new televised educational programs that will be broadcast on TV a number of days a week. Further information about these programs will be made available in the near future.

Please know that we are here to support you and your children. With our preparation and guidance and your support, I am confident that students will continue to learn and grow in Term 2.

To support parents and carers, some tips have been put together to make the transition easier:

- Treat the first week as a 'starting school' or orientation type of week. Not everything will go to plan, and it might take a while to work out how to find and use the right resources and understand what's best for you and your child. The 'how to' will come first, and then the learning.
- Remember that your child's teacher usually divides their attention between up to 28 students who all work at different paces and need different levels of support. At home, about three hours of working at learning each day will usually be plenty. Try using a range of other activities to keep children engaged and stimulated without becoming overwhelmed.
- Routines and consistency can be a source of comfort for parents and children alike, but keep in mind that your routine doesn't have to be the same as a school routine. If you use a timetable at home, make sure it's manageable for everyone and flexible enough that you can adapt it as you learn what works.
- This situation presents an opportunity for students to find out more about themselves as learners and to become more confident in self-directing their learning. Encourage your child to take responsibility for not only learning, but also for staying in touch with their teacher, their class and their friends.
- If your child is finding a task difficult, make suggestions and answer questions, but try to let them figure things out for themselves as much as possible. Give them opportunities, where appropriate, to take control of their own learning.

Further information on supporting your child, maintaining healthy learning routines and setting up a learning space at home can be found at <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning-at-home/wellbeing-of-students>

We're planning for a steady take-off

There will be no sudden lurch of the throttle; we're planning a controlled ascent. Don't feel like there needs to be panic about being able to do everything on Day-One. We'll build up to it and you'll get the hang of it. You will need to check in on what your kids are working on (be interested and fake understanding the concepts if you're a bit lost); they don't need you to teach them, just to keep pushing them forward.

If there's a problem, contact us. Sometimes it will take time for us to come up with a solution, be patient. Just keep asking for an update. Remember this is new for us, too.

While there will be some adjustments along the way as we learn together, our teachers are here to support your child's learning. Please stay connected.

- For general questions and Admin enquiries use the admin@nerangshs.eq.edu.au email address or phone us on 5503 7888.
- If you know who you want to communicate with, the Heads of Department and Teacher email contact details can be found on our website → [here](#)
- For IT support queries email ITsupport@nerangshs.eq.edu.au .

Thank you

Thank you for the support you are providing both your child and the school during these difficult times. Our dedicated staff continue to be here to teach and support your child. Together we will be learning and doing all we can to support you in this new mode of home-based learning. We will continue to maintain close contact with you over the next few weeks to provide learning for your child and together we will support each other and see all of our students continue to grow.

Regards



Scott Ison