



# Homework

## Policy

At Glenmore Road Public School homework is recognised and valued as a beneficial way of contributing to a child's school education. This Policy acknowledges that appropriate homework can assist students to build good learning habits, as well as reinforce classroom learning. It can also be a useful tool to support parents and caregivers as crucial partners in a child's education.

The policy has been developed in consultation with teachers and parents and is provided as a guide to the School's approach to homework. It is intended to be read in conjunction with the additional information contained within the NSW Department of Education and Community's *Public Schools NSW Homework Policy Guidelines* available at <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/>.

### What is homework?

Broadly, homework is defined as any task assigned by school teachers for children to carry out during non-school hours. It can include an array of different tasks designed to meet specific learning goals.

In assigning homework in accordance with this policy, the School recognises that:

- children participate in a range of activities and have diverse experiences out of school hours that may enhance their learning;
- experiences and activities at home can help create a rich learning environment for children;
- together with the school, parents and caregivers are partners in education; and
- homework should endeavour to allow children to pursue their own learning and encourage a focus on life skills as well as academic skills.

### What are the different types of homework that children may be asked to complete?

Homework includes:

- reading, being read to, playing a game with parents, researching on the computer or music practice;

- revision exercises such as Mathematics, spelling and writing tasks;
- preparatory homework including reading, research and collecting items for a class topic; and
- extension assignments such as a project, preparing a speech or completing a design task.

Homework can also include less traditional tasks such as:

- children contributing to work in the home (including routine chores);
- physical activity such as sport training; and
- activities which enhance family life (playing a game, family outings such as walking and exploring the world).



## How can I help my child with their homework?

It is important to show an interest in your child's work. Parents can assist by:

- reading any information, outlines or grids provided by the class teacher;
- spending a short time helping your child to organise a sequence of the assigned tasks before starting;
- asking your child questions prior to, during or after their reading-this directs their reading;
- encouraging your child to verbalise what they are about to write prior to writing. This can mean talking to you about the topic or explaining the main points. This process greatly aids fluency and volume and helps cement thoughts prior to writing; and
- giving positive feedback and praise for good work completed.

## How much time should my child spend on homework each night?

### Kindergarten

Children in Kindergarten may be given books to read at home, as appropriate. We would anticipate that 15 minutes be set aside for children in Kindergarten to read and participate in family discussion about the day's events.

### Years 1-2

In Years 1 and 2 some formal homework may be set. For example, children might be asked to read and write, learn words for spelling, complete some mathematical activities or complete a less traditional homework task. We would anticipate that 15-20 minutes be set aside.

### Years 3-6

Homework in Years 3-6 may be more varied and children are expected to work more independently. Children will be encouraged to read, practise mathematical concepts learnt at school and complete a less traditional homework task. Homework may also be set across other areas of the curriculum. Children in Years 3-4 should spend approximately 20-25 minutes completing homework and children in Years 5-6 roughly 30-40 minutes.

The above timeframes are a guide only and based on homework being completed over four days. Parents should consider the individual learning needs and styles of children when anticipating and setting timeframes for the completion of homework. Children should not spend wasted hours stewing over difficult work. If the homework is too difficult for your child or if you have concerns about time spend on homework, please speak to your child's class teacher.



## What are the class teacher's responsibilities with regard homework?

Teachers will always endeavour to ensure that children fully understand expectations and clearly communicate the purpose and benefits of homework. Where an extension task has been set, a project overview will be sent home outlining expectations and timeframes. Homework should be marked promptly and children recognised for their efforts. Homework can be marked in a variety of ways, including in a group setting as a means of instruction, peer review or by the teacher.

### Further information

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