



Homework Procedures

1. Introduction

Homework is a valuable part of schooling. It allows for practicing, extending, and consolidating work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration, and self-discipline.

2. Objective

The Homework Procedure aims to clarify expectations of students and parents/carers in relation to homework, to ensure allocated work is educationally beneficial and meets the realistic expectations of students, teachers, and caregivers.

3. Purposes of homework

Homework bridges the gap between learning at school and learning at home. It allows for practicing, extending, and consolidating work done in class. Homework provides training for students in planning and organising their time and develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources. Additionally, it establishes habits of study, concentration, and self-discipline.

While homework is important, schools and parents must recognise that it is important for students to also participate in leisure activities outside of school.

4. Types of homework

- ✓ Practice exercises help students to remember and practice newly acquired skills – such as learning mathematics times tables, practicing spelling words, and reading for pleasure.
- ✓ Preparatory homework requires students to source and read background information to prepare them for future lessons on a specific subject – such as reading an article on the Gold Rush in preparation for a lesson in Australian history, Research/Project, Talking/Listening and news.
- ✓ Extension assignments encourage students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively. Assignments may include writing a book review, researching local news, or retrieving items from the internet.

5. Homework allocation

5.1 Homework for Kindergarten – Year 2

Reading to children at home and involving them in family activities will greatly assist the development of their skills in literacy, numeracy and problem solving.

In Years K, 1 and 2 some formal homework is usually set. For example, students may be asked to complete simple computations, to copy letters or words, or practice phonics.

There is plenty of evidence supporting that children who are read to in the early years get better overall outcomes at the end of their schooling. Aside from set homework, children should be read to by parents daily, beginning in Kindergarten or sooner. Further, students should be encouraged to borrow books from the School Library weekly, to ensure the stories stimulate and engage their interest.

5.2 Homework for Year 3 - 6

Students in Years 3-6 will be expected to work more independently. However, teachers will still provide guidance and assistance to students having difficulties completing their homework. Much of the homework will be in English and Mathematics, however, it can be set across all areas of the curriculum. Homework will generally consist of a grid format that allows for some task choice and flexibility. Teachers will discuss expectations with their own classes.

6. Expectations

The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations. It is important that students of all ages have opportunities for free time, leisure, and physical activities outside of school.

6.1 Parents and caregivers can help by:

- Being aware of the GPS Homework Procedures
- Taking an active interest in homework
- Ensuring that there is time set aside for homework
- Encouraging and supporting students to complete homework
- Providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study
- Encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events
- Assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set
- Communicating with teachers any concerns about the homework and their children's approach to the homework. Concerns may relate to domestic considerations or extra-curricular activities.

6.2 Students can help by:

- Being aware of the importance of homework
- Having an understanding of the GPS Homework Procedures
- Completing any homework within the given time frame
- Alerting parents or caregivers to homework expectations
- Seeking assistance from teachers and parents or caregivers when difficulties arise
- Showing their homework to their parents or caregivers
- Ensuring homework is of a high standard