



Homework: a parent guide



Work, rest and play are all part of a balanced lifestyle. For your child, this may include homework.

What is homework?

Any task set by a teacher for students to carry out during non-school hours is homework.

What is the department's homework policy?

The NSW Department of Education and Communities' homework policy requires each public school to develop a local homework policy that is

- relevant to the needs of students,
- developed in consultation with the school community, and
- shared with staff, students and parents– particularly at the time of enrolment.

Is homework compulsory?

No – each school must have a homework policy but the setting of homework and any indicative time allocations across year groups is a decision for each school.

What does the research say about homework?

The research is unclear – the idea that 'the more homework, the better' is not supported by research. There's also no clear research finding as to whether homework raises student achievement.

What is the policy at Granville East PS?

Granville East acknowledges that students, staff, parents and community members all have different views about homework. Most researchers conclude that, for primary students, there is no evidence that homework lifts academic performance (Cooper, 1989, Walker 2011).

At GEPS students participate in homework that is purposeful and relevant to their needs.

The quality of the homework and the effort put in by students is much more important than the quantity. Quality homework in primary school may help students develop effective learning routines and habits for later life.

At GEPS, we believe that it is important for parents to understand our homework expectations: *what* is set, *why* it is set and *how much time* is expected of students each night.

What are the expectations?

At GEPS, homework is made up of:

- **reading** (the student reading on their own, the student reading to a parent or sibling, or the student being read to by a parent in English or a home language); &
- **other activities** appropriate to the student's stage of development. In 3-6 these may be projects that students work on over a few weeks.

Here are our guidelines about time spent on homework each night:

Year	Reading	Other activities	Total minutes
Kindy	10	5	15
Stage 1	10-15	5	15-20
Stage 2	15-20	5-10	20-30
Stage 3	20+	5-10	25-30

We also encourage involving children in family activities to assist with the development of literacy, numeracy and lifelong learning skills.

What can you do if you are concerned about homework?

Communication between home and school plays an important part please contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns about homework.

Homework at GEPS

- ☞ We acknowledge a range of views on homework.
- ☞ We offer homework to best support your child's learning.
- ☞ Our homework is based on research and DEC policy.
- ☞ Our homework sets realistic expectations of students and teachers.
- ☞ Our homework is for kids: please encourage and support your child with their homework– but don't do the work for them.

Extra resources

Ways to engage your child in purposeful learning at home:

- Bug Club (login through their individual student portal)
- www.readingeggs.com.au
- <https://app.pmeollection.com.au/login>
- www.studyladder.com.au
- <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/learning-from-home/learning-at-home>
- Joining your local library and becoming a frequent borrower
- Writing, drawing, creating or journaling

For more help

Contact your school or go to: the department's homework policy <https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library>