

Homework Policy

Rationale

At GGLPS we recognise and acknowledge the amount of time that children spend with their families in an increasingly complex and busy world; their involvement in activities outside of school are important components in their overall development. Many students are involved in a range of activities (eg art lessons, sport practices, cultural activities, out of school care, church and youth clubs). These are all considered to be valuable learning activities that place additional demands on family time. Our Homework policy therefore aims to be purposeful and relevant to the child's needs while supporting the diversity of family life.

Ideally we would like every child to be able to complete some reading at home and some other work that may assist them with their schoolwork. However, we appreciate any homework completed needs to be in balance with home life. It is understood that some children enjoy doing extra work at home, while others struggle to complete extra work; they need to recharge batteries and have a rest.

Homework can be defined as tasks assigned to a student by teachers that are intended to be completed by the student outside of prescribed school hours.

There is strong evidence from research that homework at the primary school level has little impact on academic performance, but may play an important transitional role in preparing students for secondary school and beyond.¹ Its value is largely as a tool to develop the capacity of students through feedback, even when it has no mark or grade attached²

Traditional homework can simply revise work done in class and become 'homework for homework's sake'.

Homework at GGLPS

Work to be completed at home by students at GGLPS will be known as **Home inquiry**. Teachers will record required expectations in the cluster newsletter on a weekly basis. The engagements to be completed will support and complement learning which is occurring in the classroom. These engagements may be in the form of research, discussion and recording of findings. Students will be directed as to where they need to complete / record any set tasks.

¹ Education and Training committee. 'Inquiry into the approaches to homework in Victorian schools', Victorian Government, August 2014, 57

² Education and Training committee. 'Inquiry into the approaches to homework in Victorian schools', Victorian Government, August 2014, 67

All students are required to keep a reading log. Such logs will be provided to the students and will be expected to be completed regularly. Teachers will sight these on a weekly basis.

The expectations for students from year 5 and 6 will increase in preparation for the requirements at High School. Diaries will form part of this expectation and may look different to the Home inquiry tasks expected at other year levels.

Home inquiry should not cause worry or stress, or be too onerous for the student. If Home inquiry proves to be a problem, parents need to communicate any concerns to the teacher. Students are encouraged to complete the Home inquiry tasks. As we are encouraging these opportunities to be authentic, there will not be consequences such as missing break times and/or exclusion from class activities. Teachers may take the opportunity to discuss regular incompleteness of tasks with parents. Home inquiry will not be reported upon.

Purposes of Home inquiry

- provides more opportunities for children to communicate, share, discuss and practise their learning with their parents;
- taking action related to learning;
- provides a link between the home and the school;
- encourages the development of self-management skills such as responsibility, independence, self-discipline, organisation and planning skills;
- prepares students for the transition to secondary schooling.

The amount of time indicated is the maximum that a student would be expected to do – not everyone works at the same pace and has access to the same resources and support.

Any Home inquiry expected to be completed will span the week (Monday–Thursday) and need not be completed on one particular night.

Home inquiry will consist of:

Foundation and Year 1	Year 2	Years 3 and 4	Years 5 and 6
No more than 10 minutes total per day	No more than 10-15 minutes total per day	No more than 15 minutes total per day	No more than 20 minutes total per day
Home reading	Home reading	Home reading	Home reading
Literacy (Jolly sounds, Jolly words and / or sight words) Unit of inquiry	Unit of inquiry	Number facts Unit of inquiry	Literacy Maths activity Unit of inquiry

Expectations for quality Home inquiry at GGLPS is that it is:

- appropriate to the student's skill level and age;
- purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum;
- interesting, challenging and when appropriate, open ended;
- reviewed by teachers with feedback and support provided;
- balanced with a range of recreational, family and cultural activities.