

GIRRAWEEN PUBLIC SCHOOL



HOMEWORK POLICY

In New South Wales, the Department of Education has guidelines regarding homework that support a balanced approach, especially for primary school students. Here's a summary of the key points regarding homework policy for K-6, particularly focusing on reading, phonics, and project-based learning:

NSW Department of Education Homework Policy for Primary Schools

Homework is Not Compulsory:

Homework is recognised as an optional activity. Students are encouraged to engage in activities that reinforce learning, but it should not be a source of stress or pressure for students or their families. Importantly, students will not be disciplined for not completing homework.

K-2 Homework Expectations at Girraween Public School:

For students in Kindergarten to Year 2, the focus is primarily on reading and revision of phonics.

Reading: Students are encouraged to read regularly at home to develop their literacy skills. This could include online reading programs or other age-appropriate materials.

Phonics Revision: Activities that reinforce phonics and camera words may be suggested, allowing students to practice foundational literacy skills in a supportive environment.

Years 3-6 Homework Expectations at Girraween Public School:

For students in Years 3 to 6, homework may take the form of project-based learning.

Project-Based Assignments: These projects encourage students to explore topics in depth and apply their learning in creative ways. Projects can involve research, collaboration, and presentation, fostering skills such as critical thinking and problem-solving.

The aim is to promote independent learning while allowing students to connect their schoolwork with real-world applications.

Teacher Feedback

Teachers are encouraged to provide constructive feedback on homework submissions. Feedback should focus on the learning objectives and help students understand areas for improvement.

This feedback is essential in guiding students' learning and encouraging them to take ownership of their educational journey.

Multistage Classes:

The homework policy acknowledges the diverse needs of students and families. Schools may adjust homework expectations based on individual circumstances, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to engage meaningfully with their learning.

Guidelines on AI Use:

Students are expected to complete homework tasks independently and should not rely on artificial intelligence (AI) tools to generate answers or complete assignments.

While technology can be a valuable resource for research and learning, students must develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills through their own efforts. Teachers will provide guidance on appropriate resources while encouraging independent work.

Communication with Parents:

Girraween Public School will communicate clearly with parents regarding homework expectations and the rationale behind them. This creates a supportive home learning environment.

If your child is experiencing problems with their homework, please contact your child's teacher.

What can parents/caregivers do to help?

- Take an active interest in your child's homework.
- Provide a dedicated place for homework and study if possible
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework or your child's approach to homework
- Encourage your child to read and take an interest in current events
- Alert the school to any domestic circumstances or extra-curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or marked.

Conclusion

The NSW Department of Education promotes a balanced approach to homework in primary schools, emphasising the importance of reading and phonics for younger students, while allowing for more creative and project-based learning for older students. The focus remains on enhancing learning experiences without adding undue pressure on students and families.

For specific details or resources, schools should refer to the latest guidelines from the NSW Department of Education or consult with the Girraween Public School leadership team.