

GILMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY (2015)

Policy Title: Homework Policy

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Related Policies:

- ETD – Curriculum Requirements in ACT Public Schools, Preschool to Year 10 (*Identifier CRIAPS200903*)
- ETD - Gifted and Talented Students Policy (*Identifier GAT200808*)
- ETD - Reporting On Student Achievement And Progress To Students And Parents (*Identifier SAP200606*)

Legislation: Education Act (2004)

1. Policy Statement

This policy is based upon research findings and the combined opinions expressed by the parents, carers, students and staff of Gilmore Primary School. The homework policy of Gilmore Primary School is a guide to teachers and families for helping children with homework. Homework is an extension of school activities. It is an opportunity for children to practise skills and enrich ideas developed at school. Homework is an opportunity for child and adult to interact in learning.

2. Purpose

This policy outlines how homework will be incorporated into education programs at Gilmore Primary School. It provides a rationale for homework as well as the processes and procedures for participating in homework. This policy recognises the importance to children's learning of positive partnerships between school and families.

3. Rationale

Several key factors underpin homework for Gilmore Primary School children. Gilmore Primary School believes that:

- children spend six hours a day at school and are usually tired or 'filled' with school learning by the end of the day;
- homework should not add to the competing pressures of family life by limiting the time available for children's extra-curricula activities or activities of cultural significance to each family;
- the capacity of families to support children's completion of homework varies for many reasons;
- the active and positive participation of children in 'family living' - talking, listening, playing, being active and sharing interests with siblings and significant adults constitutes valuable learning; and
- homework is more effective if children can see their parents/carers and older siblings genuinely engaged in the same or similar activity thus providing a model of appropriate attitudes to learning.

4. Definitions

Child - Any student enrolled at Gilmore Primary School.

Adult - The parent or carer of the child and/or the adult assisting with homework task/s.

Homework – Tasks set to be completed in the home setting that build upon learning that has happened in the school setting.

5. Research

A common parental view is that homework leads to improved academic achievement. Research to date on the academic benefits of homework has produced inconclusive and mixed results. There has been no benefit shown for children in the preschool year of schooling receiving formal homework. Current academic opinion is that homework provides little benefit to the academic results of primary school aged children. The research does show that academic benefits are more obvious for secondary-school children. There is general academic agreement that homework may provide non-academic benefits, including developing children's achievement and motivation and assisting them to become mature learners. There is also research showing that parents and carers may benefit from homework through becoming more involved in their child's education.

6. Procedures

At Gilmore Primary School:

- 6.1 Parents and carers are the first and lifelong educators of their children. They have the responsibility and the right to decide on their child's participation in homework. Families of children in Kindergarten to Year 6 will be provided with the option to participate in homework upon enrolment. This may be amended in writing at any time. Formal homework will not be provided in the preschool year of schooling.
- 6.2 Homework time will vary in duration and frequency according to the age of the individual child. As such no set homework time is identified.

Time spent on homework should be responsive to the age and development of children, and sufficient to provide an enjoyable experience without impacting adversely on family and child leisure time. As a broad guide, in addition to daily reading and participation in any family determined extra-curricula activities, students in kindergarten to year two undertake no more than 15 minutes homework each weeknight, students in year three and year four undertake no more than 20 minutes homework each weeknight and students in year five and six undertake no more than 30 minutes homework each weeknight.
- 6.3 All children will be encouraged to regularly borrow quality literature from the Gilmore Primary School library to read with a significant adult. The school will provide material to families to develop their children's reading habits.
- 6.4 Homework is set by class teachers. A Homework Grid is used to offer a range of learning experiences with varied time allocations and frequencies. This approach acknowledges the commitment to sport, cultural activities, community service and the arts that many children engage in out of school time and is therefore included as homework on the grid. Physical activity and completing jobs within the home setting are also incorporated into the grid in addition to more traditional tasks such as spelling words and the home reading program. At times, specifically in the senior grades, project-based activities will be provided to students to expand their knowledge of a topic of study by encouraging independent research.
- 6.5 To support planning routines, homework will be sent home on the day following the class teacher's in-school planning time in Weeks 2, 4, 6 and 8 each term. It will be due back the following fortnight. This will be communicated to families through the Gazette at the commencement of each school term.
- 6.6 Feedback on completed homework will be given but homework will not be assessed unless specifically stated in advance by the teacher. This assessment will not contribute towards year level assessment. There will be no sanction for not participating in homework and children will not be kept from playtime or precluded from other class activities to complete unfinished homework. To ensure that feedback is timely and relevant, new homework will not be sent home until the previous homework has been submitted.
- 6.7 Parents and carers can support their child by:

- Providing a suitable environment in which homework can be done.
- Encouraging the child to complete and submit the homework.
- Encouraging the child to 'have a go' before providing assistance. Help and guidance by parents is encouraged, however the end result should be the child's own work.
- Ensuring that homework does not become a burden on the child by balancing 'work' and play.
- Reporting to the child's teacher any concerns with the nature and quantity of homework or any concerns the child is having completing the work.

7. Education, Communication and Evaluation

- Parents and carers will be informed of the Homework Policy when they enrol their child at Gilmore Primary School.
- The school will communicate the Homework Policy through the school website and a copy will also be kept in a policy register at the front office. The Homework Policy will be freely available for parents and carers through these avenues.
- The school will ensure that the information on homework procedures will be conveyed to new staff when they commence at the school.
- The school will review the Homework Policy to ensure it complies with any new guidelines that may be published by the ACT Education and Training Directorate.
- The Homework Policy is due to be formally reviewed in 2017.

8. Contact

For further information please contact the school executive team at Gilmore Primary School.

Approved 13 May 2015