

## **GILMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY (2024)**

**Policy Title:** Homework Policy

**Year of Publication:** 2015

**Last Reviewed:** 28 February 2024

### **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 learning in the home.

### **2. Purpose**

This policy outlines how homework will be incorporated into education programs at Gilmore Primary School. This policy recognises the importance to children's learning of positive partnerships between school and families.

### **3. Rationale**

Gilmore Primary School believes that:

- quality teaching and learning is informed by academic research;
- 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; and
- 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.

### **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 by teachers to be completed in the home setting that build upon learning that has happened in the school setting.
- Home learning – Tasks set by adult/s to be completed in the home 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.

## **6. Procedures**

At Gilmore Primary School:

- 6.1 Regular, formal homework will not be set by class teachers. Teachers will meet with families, as required, to discuss ways to support children's learning at home.
- 6.2 From time to time, project-based activities will be provided to students to expand their knowledge of a topic of study by encouraging independent research.
- 6.3 All children will be encouraged to regularly borrow quality literature from the Gilmore Primary School library to read with a significant adult.
- 6.4 Children are encouraged to borrow 'Hot Reads' books to read for enjoyment in the home.
- 6.5 Links to quality online learning will be provided on the school's website to support families seeking to provide formal home learning for their child/ren.
- 6.6 Families are encouraged to ensure time spent on homework is responsive to the age and development of their child. As a broad guide, in addition to daily reading, students in kindergarten to year two undertake no more than 15 minutes, students in year three and year four undertake no more than 20 minutes, and students in year five and six undertake no more than 30 minutes homework each weeknight.
- 6.7 Parents and carers can support their child by:
  - providing a suitable environment in which homework can be done;
  - encouraging the child to 'have a go' before providing assistance;
  - ensuring that homework does not become a burden on the child by balancing 'work' and play;
  - engaging with support for home learning provided by the school through Facebook, the newsletter, the school's website, and family workshops.

## **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 Directorate.
- The Homework Policy is due to be formally reviewed, and endorsed by the School Board, in 2027.