

Greenbank State School Homework Policy – Updated 2015



Greenbank State School's Homework Policy has been developed in consultation with the school community as specified in the [P-12 curriculum, assessment and reporting framework](#) and informed by [Parent and community engagement framework](#).

Purpose

Greenbank State School's Homework Policy ensures:

- consistent and effective implementation occurs across the school – including a consistent approach to the amount of time students are to spend in completing homework
- the amount of homework is balanced across all learning areas to allow sufficient time for family, recreation and community and cultural activities
- students are not disadvantaged by the lack of access to resources such as computers and the internet outside school
- homework is effective in supporting learning

Overview

- At Greenbank State School we value the importance of students developing positive study habits at home and therefore we encourage all students to participate in completing set homework tasks. However, in extreme cases, parents may meet with the class teacher and a Deputy Principal and opt to sign a homework exemption form (Appendix One) which withdraws children from mandatory written home tasks. Such forms are to be held in the student's file and by the class teacher for the year. Exempted homework would need to be reviewed on an annual basis and new forms completed. Children are not to be disadvantaged in general assessment of learning areas as a result of this exemption.
- Where possible, written homework should be set over a number of days including a weekend to allow for family circumstances and extra-curricular activities.
- Home tasks may rely on home access to computers, internet, encyclopaedia or other references. **However, alternatives must be available in the event a student is unable to access these resources.**
- Homework should be marked and feedback provided where appropriate. Parent concerns or issues about homework should be communicated through the Greenbank State School diary.
- Home tasks should be relevant, related to in-class work and accompanied by clear instructions with regard to expectations or methods to be used.
- Where appropriate, optional extension activities should be offered to those children who are motivated by further challenge.
- Home tasks should **not** be set across holiday periods, i.e., end of term.
- Home tasks should **not** rely on the use of commercial blackline master contract sheets.

Homework is most effective when it:

- is clearly related to class work
- is appropriate to particular years of schooling
- is varied and differentiated to individual learning needs
- consolidates, revises and/or applies students' classroom learning
- develops student's independence as a learner through extension activities such as investigating, researching, writing, designing and creating
- assists students to prepare for upcoming classroom learning, such as collecting relevant materials and information, completing surveys and audits
- is monitored by the teacher

Recommended levels of homework

Homework in Prep

Prep children are not generally set homework. To support your child's academic progress, it is recommended that Prep children:

- practise/learn their letters, sounds and sight words
- engage in daily reading with a parent/caregiver or other family members
- practise counting backwards and forwards (initially up to 20)
- engage in real life literacy and numeracy skills.

Visit <http://education.qld.gov.au/literacyandnumeracy/> for ideas

Homework in Years 1, 2 and 3

Homework in Years 1, 2 and 3 could be up to, but no more than one (1) hour per week and may include:

- daily reading to, with, and by parents/caregivers or other family members
- conversation about what is happening at school
- preparation for oral presentations
- opportunities to develop writing skills
- opportunities for real life literacy and numeracy activities
- number facts – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division (from Year 2)
- sight words/spelling

Homework in Years 4, 5 and 6

Homework in Years 4, 5 and 6 could be up to, but no more than, two – three (2 – 3) hours per week and may include:

- daily reading to self - independently and/or orally to/with parents/caregivers or other family members
- number facts – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- spelling
- finishing incomplete class work
- research tasks
- opportunities for real life literacy and numeracy activities

Procedures for Incomplete Homework in Years 4, 5 and 6

In addition to providing opportunities for students to practise and consolidate what they are learning, homework is also important for students to establish positive study habits in preparation for high school. Teachers in Years 4, 5 and 6 follow this procedure to support students in completing their homework:

Homework expectations are sent home each term to all parents by the class teachers outlining when homework is issued, when it is due back to school and consequences for incomplete homework.

Teacher sets homework appropriate to student ability and class work.

First instance of incomplete homework (in a term) will result in a warning and the teacher will organise for homework to be completed during play time. A note will be sent home in the Greenbank State School diary for parents/guardians to sign (Appendix Two).

Second instance of incomplete homework (in a term) will result in class teacher contacting parents/guardians (phone call or email). Class teacher will organise for homework to be completed during play time.

Third instance of incomplete homework (in a term) will result in referral to a Deputy Principal who will issue a Thinking Room.

Continued failure to complete homework will result in a meeting with parents/guardians, student, teacher and Deputy Principal.

Appendix One: Homework Exemption Form

Completed form to be kept on the student's school file (hand to administration). Class teacher to keep a copy on class file.

HOMWORK EXEMPTION FORM

I, _____ wish to seek an exemption
(parent/guardian's name)

from written homework for my child _____
(child's name)

in class _____ for 201__ as outlined in the Greenbank State School Homework

Policy for the period of _____ to _____.
(start date) (end date)

My reason for requesting this exemption is

(Parent/guardian signature)

(Date)