

Kincumber Public School Plan

Homework and Home Learning

Key Accountability: Educational Programs

Departmental Plan References:

<https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/homework-policy?refid=285831>

Next Review Date: Term 1, 2024

Purpose

The aim of this plan is to communicate to the school community how the school manages homework and home learning tasks. It should be read in conjunction with the DoE plan *Homework Plan*.

Rationale

Homework is a long-standing practice in NSW Public Schools and has come under the scrutiny of a number of Australian education systems in the last decade. Research indicates that for primary students, there is no evidence that homework lifts academic performance and that for home learning to be effective, homework needs to meet certain quality criteria.

The NSW Department of Education (DoE) directs schools to develop a homework plan relevant to the needs of their students. Please refer to the guide available at the following link. https://policies.education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/associated-documents/Hwk_Pol_guide.pdf

The principles of this plan include that:

1. Homework is not compulsory.
2. Any task set by a teacher for students to carry out during non-school hours is homework.
3. The homework set will be linked to current classroom learning.
4. The task should have a specific, explicit learning purpose and the teacher should provide feedback to your child about their homework.
5. It takes into account the balancing of family responsibilities and family-chosen activities and school-set work in non-school hours.
6. Because homework or home learning must be set with an explicit learning purpose; linked to recent assessment, teachers can only provide home learning tasks when the school is open for instruction and absences from school due to exemptions or illness are five days or less.

Implementation

At Kincumber Public School you can expect we will:

1. Assign work that has a clear academic purpose
2. Set differentiated home learning, according to student learning needs and age
3. Set daily reading and maths practice (where given) to be done on Monday to Thursday nights only
4. Limit the expectations for time set for homework

Specifically:

Homework for Kindergarten-Year 2

Students are not expected to complete formal homework in Kindergarten. All students in K–2 will be expected to undertake daily reading. For kindergarten, this will not begin until late in term one at the earliest.

In Year 2 some formal homework may be set. Students might be asked to complete some mathematical activities using Mathletics.

Kindergarten & Year 1: Not more than ten minutes reading daily

Year 2: Not more than ten minutes reading daily and not more than twenty minutes on Maths over the four days

Homework for Years 3-6

Homework in Years 3-6 may be varied and students may be expected to work more independently. All students will be expected to undertake daily reading and are encouraged to practise mathematical concepts using Mathletics daily.

No research projects or construction projects will be set as home learning tasks in grades 3–6.

Years 3 & 4: Not more than ten minutes reading daily

Not more than twenty minutes on Maths over the four days

Years 5 & 6: Not more than fifteen minutes reading daily (where given)

Not more than thirty minutes on Maths over the four days

Students in primary grades are encouraged to read widely from the school and local libraries and undertake personal interest studies and practical activities to extend their learning where time and family commitments permit.

Homework or home learning will be consistent with these guidelines but may be different from student to student and class to class. Teachers will advise homework requirements and changes in writing.