



# GABBINBAR STATE SCHOOL

*We Value: Achieving our Best • Being Respectful and Responsible • Caring and Confidence*

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## HOMework POLICY

### RATIONALE

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning. It fosters good lifelong learning and study habits, encourages students to be responsible for their own learning, and provides opportunities for parents to participate in their child's education. Our policy has been developed utilising the P-12 Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework, I. Lillo's Academic Paper on Homework Grids and John Hattie's work on Effect Sizes.

### Ian Lillo's Homework Philosophy

*"There is no doubt that children need to practice concepts learnt at school, within time constraints, but we need to broaden the definition of Home Work. Any work that children do at home needs to be counted and parents and teachers should work together to ensure that children do some work at home, but not a lot of sedentary work. The Homework Grid is a solution to this old question of getting kids to do something at home and not opt out of family life. It will enable parents to get children to do their share of work in the home including housework, shopping, physical activity such as sport training and family outings such as walking, fishing and exploring the world – activities which enhance family life. It also covers areas such as reading, being read to, playing a game with parents, researching on the computer, music practice and many others."*

### AIMS

1. To instil a positive approach and attitude to home learning.
2. To encourage 'real life' applications of homework through the involvement of family and every day events.
3. To ensure that students are provided with homework on a regular basis.
4. To assist student learning and the establishment of good homework patterns from early primary school.
5. To provide opportunities for students to develop organisational and time management skills, self-discipline, personal responsibility for learning, and skills in using resources accessible outside the school.
6. To increase parent awareness and opportunities for participation in their child's education.

### GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- All classes will set homework. It will be given out to all students to reinforce work covered in class and to strengthen a range of skills which is important to children, parents and families.
- Administration will attach Homework Policy in the newsletter at the commencement of the year.
- Parents will be informed of the homework program at the beginning of the year at parent meeting.
- School Expectation for the Week will be placed at the top of each homework sheet.
- Children will be asked to complete 5 Compulsory Grids each week. These are: Reading Log, Be Read To, Core Maths Facts, Words Their Way Sorts & Sight Words (as required).
- Children will choose a selection of Multi-disciplinary Grids each Week.
- Homework will be handed out on Wednesdays and handed back in on a Monday.
- No homework handed out in the first and last weeks of each term.
- **Reading Log Expectations-**
  - P-2 (30-40min per week) Home readers required
  - Yrs 3-4 (40-60 min per week) Home readers as required
  - Yrs 5-6 (60+ min per week)
- Involve the **Core Maths** Skills of +, -, × & ÷ only
- Involve **Words Their Way** Spelling through the setting of various word sorts from the unit of work being covered that week. These sorts stay the same until a new one goes home. (Usually weekly) Group leaders are accountable for handing out sorts to their group. See Document below for Parent Information.
- Involve Sight Words for all Prep to Year 1 students and Year 2 to Year 6 students as required.
- There will be no consequences or loss of freedom given to students by staff for non-completion of homework, however staff are encouraged to keep track of who does homework.



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## Words Their Way Homework Information

Words Their Way is a developmental spelling, phonics and vocabulary program introduced at Gabbinbar several years ago. Students are encouraged to compare and contrast spelling patterns in words and one common method for doing so is by having students sort words. When sorting, students use their word knowledge to separate examples that go together. This allows students to make generalisations about words and transfer this knowledge to new words.

*Words Their Way Spelling - Word Sorts* is one of the compulsory components of the Gabbinbar Homework Grid. Your child will be bringing home a word sort appropriate to their spelling level and that has been introduced in class. The following list gives you some ideas on how you or an older sibling could help your child revise the pattern that has been introduced for a particular week.

- **Repeated Sorts:** Remind your child to *sort the words* into categories like the ones they did in school. Your child should read each word aloud during this activity. You may like to ask your child to explain to you why the words are sorted in particular way – what does the sort reveal about spelling in general?
- **Speed Sort:** Your child sorts the words once, and then a second time as fast as possible. For added interest, you may want to time them.
- **Blind Sorts:** Lay down the headers or key words, then shuffle the word cards and call out each word aloud without showing it. Your child indicates the correct category.
- **Writing Sorts:** As you call out the words in a random order your child should write them in categories. Call out the words your child misspells a second or even third time.
- **Word Hunts:** Assist your child in doing a *word hunt*, looking for words in a book they have already read that have the same sound, pattern, or both. Try to find two or three for each category and then write each word.



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### Example Gabbinbar Homework Grid

Reading Log (Read to self or other family member)	Be read to by another member of the family – Vocabulary Link – Discuss new word in text.	Core Maths Facts +, -, x, ÷	WTW Spelling – Word Sorts	Sight Words P-1 or as required
<b>Help In or Around the House</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wash dishes</li> <li>Go food shopping for family</li> <li>Bring the clothes in off the line</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Play an Indoor Game with a family member</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chess</li> <li>Twister</li> <li>Scrabble</li> <li>Digital game</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Teach your parents something you were taught at school</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to do Rainbow Facts.</li> <li>How to regroup when doing subtraction</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Intrapersonal</b> Spend some time doing something that you enjoy doing by yourself. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drawing</li> <li>Listening to music</li> <li>Watching nature</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Imaginative Play</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a game for yourself or yourself and others to play.</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Watch a movie/tv program</b> and share your thoughts about it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Favourite character</li> <li>Best part of the movie</li> <li>What was the theme of the movie</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Cultural/ Music Practice/ Music Appreciation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen to music</li> <li>Play a musical instrument</li> <li>Try a new food</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Physical Activity Or Sports training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play tag with your neighbours</li> <li>Go to sports training</li> <li>Take dog for a walk with mum or dad</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Outdoor Adventure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build a cubby house</li> <li>Do a car rally with family</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Personal Challenge</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set yourself a goal to achieve</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Gratitude &amp; Mindfulness</b> Gratitude and mindfulness can be one of the most beneficial practices for children. A number of studies have shown that even a small dose of daily gratitude and mindfulness can increase optimism, decrease negative feelings, enhance school connectedness, and improve overall attitudes towards school and learning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do an act of kindness for someone else</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Art Adventure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eg. Draw, paint or sculpt an original work</li> <li>construct an object out of recyclable materials</li> <li>use scrapbooking skills to make a collage</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Experiences:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>visit a local landmark</li> <li>eat something you haven't tried before and reflect on your reaction</li> <li>practise a new craft</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Personal Organisation</b> Contributing to the home in relation to home and life organisation and is an important aspect of family life. Children need to accept responsibility for their own things as a member of the household. This will assist children to further develop skills in relation to organisation, responsibility, time management and appreciation. This in turn helps the stress levels for the whole home. Eg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stack your own used plates and cups in dishwasher</li> <li>Throw out dirty clothes</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Personal Inquiry</b> Researching and exploring a topic of interest provides an opportunity to use a variety of sources, including internet, dictionaries, libraries and other experts including people and experts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the best way to keep canaries?</li> <li>How do you make a kite?</li> <li>What is the best way to organise your lego?</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Environment and Nature</b> It is important for children to develop an appreciation for the beauty of nature and also to understand the need to care for the environment through conservation. <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Visual/Spatial</b> Choose 6 photos that mean something positive to you and talk about why they were a good moment for you to your family. <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Media Watch</b> Find a newspaper clipping or online article about a current news event. Summarise article in your own words to share and give your opinion about the story. <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Teacher Choice</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Teacher Choice</b> <input type="checkbox"/>