



# Homework: a parent guide

Work, rest and play are all part of a balanced lifestyle. For your child, this may include homework.

## What is the department's policy on homework?

All NSW public schools are required to develop a homework policy in consultation with staff, students, parents and caregivers in each school's local community.

## Is the department's homework policy the same as the school's homework policy?

The short answer is no.

The NSW Department of Education and Communities' homework policy requires each NSW public school to develop a local homework policy.

The department policy states that a school's policy should be:

- relevant to the needs of students
- developed in consultation with the school community, and
- shared with staff, students, parents and caregivers – particularly at the time of enrolment.

## Is homework compulsory?

No – each school must have a homework policy but the setting of homework and any indicative time allocations across year groups is a decision for each school to make in consultation with its local community.

## What does the research say about homework?

It's unclear – the idea that 'the more homework, the better' is not supported by research. There's also no clear research finding as to whether homework raises student achievement. For more information about homework and the latest homework research findings,

check out Homework Policy: Research scan document at <http://tinyurl.com/det-homework-policy>

## What can be classified as homework?

Any task set by a teacher for students to carry out during non-school hours is homework. The task should have a specific, explicit learning purpose and the teacher should provide feedback to your child about their homework.

## What can you do if you are concerned about homework?

Communication between home and school plays an important part in providing quality educational experiences. Please contact your school if you have any concerns about homework – schools are required to involve parents and caregivers in homework policy decision-making.

## What support is available for research assignments?

Your child's teacher and teacher librarian will help your child develop research skills in the classroom, library and online.

Links4Learning, available in NSW public school libraries, has links to sites for all learning needs and includes tips and help on how to evaluate information, identify credible online sources and credit expert opinions and sources. The local library is also another place where students can get support and assistance with their research.

For parents and caregivers, the School A to Z online school community includes homework and study tips along with a range of assignment starters on common classroom topics set for study. Go to: [www.schoolatoz.com.au](http://www.schoolatoz.com.au)

## If homework is set

- Ask for a copy of your school's homework policy.
- Participate in developing and implementing the policy.
- Encourage and support your child with their homework - but don't do the work for them.
- Discuss any concerns you have about homework with the school.
- Let the school know if you don't agree with its homework policy and discuss alternative strategies.

## The school library

NSW public school students have 24-hour access to their school library through the NSW Department of Education and Communities student portal. Students can access their school library's full range of books, freely available ebooks, videos and websites that have been carefully selected by teacher librarians, teachers and curriculum experts across NSW.

## For more help

Contact your local school or go to:  
**the department's homework policy**  
<http://tinyurl.com/det-homework-policy>  
**School A to Z**  
[www.schoolatoz.com.au](http://www.schoolatoz.com.au)