



Home Learning (Homework) Policy

Rationale

At Minerva Primary Academy we pursue our vision of 'Learning Together for Our Future'. This is made effective by our commitment to working in partnership with parents. This policy will form part of the home/school partnership.

Aims

The undertaking of regular homework tasks is beneficial in a number of ways:

- Homework consolidates and extends knowledge and skills;
- Homework helps children to develop the skills of independent learning; encouraging self-discipline and motivation and personal organisation;
- Homework informs Parent/Carers and enables them to have direct involvement in their children's learning;
- Homework increases Parent/Carers' understanding of the content and level of their children's work;
- Homework helps prepare older children for secondary transfer.
- Homework informs teacher of children's progress when applying learning to other tasks.

Guidelines

Frequency and Amount

Homework is vital to the education of children at Minerva Primary Academy, but it is important that our expectations in terms of frequency and amount set are reasonable and realistic.

This policy, therefore, sets a sensible amount of work to be completed in line with government recommendations. It covers all years from Reception to Year 6. It should be noted that the guidelines given are general and there may be variations at different times of the year, as teachers match the homework to the needs of their class, and of individuals.

Homework Books

Children will have homework books, which will usually contain their spellings/ times tables to learn and information about that week's tasks.

Responsibilities

Teachers should ensure that

- Homework is planned and set according to the guidelines in this policy.
- Work matches, as far as possible, the abilities of the children.
- Information about the task is communicated to the children and parents.
- Information about when homework is set and what may be set is communicated to parents via their class link on the school website, and via the Homework Guidance sheet in the Homework books or folders.
- They encourage and expect children to complete tasks by appropriate deadlines.
- They keep a register of homework handed in.

- They positively reward those children who complete and hand in work satisfactorily using the whole school merit system.
- Homework is marked/ commented on.

Parents should ensure that

- They show interest in their child's homework and praise/ value efforts made by the child to complete it.
- Children are supported with their homework, where necessary.
- The work, where applicable, is completed and returned to Minerva Primary Academy at the appropriate time. Work may not be marked if it is not returned on time.
- The teacher is informed if there is a specific reason why the work has not been carried out.
- Any observations are noted in homework books that children take home.
- Homework Books looked after and brought to school on the appropriate day.

Communication

Homework will be discussed as part of 'Back to School' meetings during the first term of the new school year, making expectations, roles and responsibilities clear. Teachers also use their class link page on the website and Curriculum Overview sheets to clarify matters.

Parents are encouraged to use the Homework Books to communicate observations, comments, concerns etc. about the homework to the teacher.

Feedback to children on homework completed will be given, where appropriate, to individuals, groups or to the whole class. Not all homework will be marked formally. Much will depend on the nature of the work set.

Additional information for Parents

Year Group	Type of work set	Amount per week
Reception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learning things by heart; key words, rhymes and songs key words; counting reading every day optional purposeful activities. 	30 mins.
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learning things by heart; spellings, number bonds, key words reading every day optional purposeful activities 	30- 45
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learning things by heart; spellings, key words, counting and times tables one brief literacy activity (reading comprehension or writing) one short numeracy activity reading every day 	1 hour
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learning things by heart; spellings (x12), times tables, division facts one extended activity (alternate between maths and English) reading every day 	1 ½ hours
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learning things by heart; spellings (x12), times tables, division facts reading every day one extended activity per week (maths or English) 	1 ½ hours
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learning things by heart; spellings (x12), times tables, division facts reading every day two extended activities (one maths, one English) are set per week. 	2 hours
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> learning things by heart; spellings (x20), times tables, division facts reading every day two extended activities (one maths, one English) are set per week additional SATs preparation for Y6 	2 ½ hours

Each class is set **termly ELLI homework** these are activities that promote different life skills such as perseverance, curiosity, working as a team and creativity. We consider these learning areas key to develop the whole child for life.

On what days will it be set?

At the class teachers' discretion, but at regular times. You should be informed of this at the Back to School Evening in September each year. Usually, it is set on Friday to be handed in the following Thursday.

What assistance will my child need?

Ideally you will provide support for the child when required but encourage them to complete as much work as possible independently. Clearly there may be times that they need more help with projects in terms of research or organisation, for example, and this is actively encouraged. Parental help with spellings and tables is also very helpful. Ultimately, showing your child that you appreciate the value of homework yourself, encouraging them to complete it and showing interest in their efforts is motivating in itself.

Please read with and to your child as often as possible.

How will the work be marked?

Spellings and tables will be tested regularly.

When set, projects will be accompanied by a marking criteria sheet which will explain what is required and how the work will be judged. All work will be looked at but not all work will have a written comment assigned to it. Work not handed in on time will not be marked.

What happens if my child does not do the work?

Homework is set and the expectation is that it will be completed and returned on the agreed day. It is of great benefit to the child to do so in terms of preparation for secondary school and academic and personal development. Please encourage them to do so. There is a distinct correlation between those children who regularly complete homework and those who are most successful academically. Parents/ carers will be contacted if their child consistently fails to complete their homework.

Children who require a little extra support with their homework should consult class teachers.

Where do children complete their work?

Most work should be completed in the pupils' Homework Books. Please use this book to communicate with the teacher in note form who will check regularly for parental comments on any aspect of homework. Guidance on how (and where) to complete projects will be given by the class teacher each time one is set. A4 paper will be available to children if required.

Any further questions, please see your child's class teacher.

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