



# The Minster School

For Boys and Girls Aged 5-13



## Homework Policy

Dated: March 2020

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## Aim

1. At our school we aim to set and monitor homework which is appropriate to your child's age and ability, which provides challenge appropriate for the age and stage of pupils.
2. Homework we give to pupils has several purposes: to consolidate learning; deepen understanding and help to prepare pupils very well for work to come; to carry out creative activities or conduct extension work following on from class work.
3. That staff and parent/carers work together to support their children in further learning at home.

## Expectations of homework (general)

4. Work set for home is referred to as 'homework' in the Pre Prep department and 'Prep' in the Prep department.
5. At The Minster School we take the homework tasks seriously and expect the children to do so too. We expect children to return completed homework promptly, to have done the task well and to have completed it to the same high standards of quality and presentation we would expect of them at school.
6. The teachers will acknowledge homework through giving verbal feedback and marking the work in an appropriate manner to the subject covered.
7. If a parent/carer wishes to comment on their child's homework they can do so in the homework book or sheet and the teacher will acknowledge that by initialling it or responding with a short comment back to the parent. Parents/carers also have opportunity to talk to teachers about homework at the end of the school day or by making an appointment via the school office.
8. As part of our high expectations and working with parents/carers to support pupils, we will have a number of web-based learning opportunities for access by all pupils, in addition to the set homework. These are activities which would help them to consolidate or extend their learning and prepare for what is to come. These include Number Gym and TT Rockstars which the school is arranging to subscribe to (for which all pupils will be shortly be given the relevant passwords).
9. We will report to parents/carers on the standard of homework at parents'/carers' evenings and in each pupil's written reports.



## Procedures for homework

10. In Reception and Year 1 we would ask that parents/carers would work with their child; in Year 2 we would hope that parent/carers would give guidance, but encourage the children to become increasingly independent. As a child goes through Y2 into Year 3 and beyond, the staff would expect that homework tasks will be independently completed by each child, reflecting standards demonstrated by the child in class. We would appreciate it if parents/carers would still check the homework done by their child.
11. We would expect every child to have completed the set homework activities.
12. We would ask parents/carers to encourage their child with their homework and support them at a level appropriate to the child's age. From Year 3 children should be able to complete homework independently and are encouraged to return and ask the relevant teacher if they are stuck with their homework. For homework to be of value it is important that it is done by the child without significant adult input.
13. Children are expected to complete homework and return it to school at the requested day. We would ask parents to support their child in homework and other opportunities for home school learning.
14. We will always be supportive and show understanding if there is an exceptional circumstance why a child cannot complete homework. We would hope that a parent/carer would communicate with the class or subject teacher about any such circumstances, writing a brief note to explain if homework hasn't been done due to an exceptional circumstance.
15. In any other unlikely event that homework is not completed by a child, the following procedures will be followed:
  - If pupils are in Reception or Year 1, the teacher will talk to the child's parent/carer about the work not being done (or add a note to the child's homework folder) and hopefully agree strategies to enable homework to be completed in future. If completion of homework continues to be an issue, then we will invite parents/carers into school ask to how can help. In the very rare cases where homework continues to be an issue, teachers will inform the Head Teacher who will arrange to discuss the issue with parents/carers.
  - In Year 2 and subsequent year groups, if a child doesn't bring their homework in promptly, the class teacher will speak to child about the importance of completing homework and bringing it to school on the designated day. If there is a second time that a child does not bring their completed homework to school or on time without good reason parents/carers will be informed. Should the child not bring homework on a third occasion,



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staff will make the Head teacher aware of the situation. The Head Teacher will discuss the matter with the child and, if appropriate, parents/carers will be contacted.

## Guidance for parents/carers

16. To meet children's additional or individual needs, teachers may give some children different homework.
17. There will be on-line activities available which give children the opportunity to consolidate skills they are covering in class or to practise skills from another year group to re-learn or extend their learning. Ones that will shortly be in place for maths are Number gym and TT Rock Stars.
18. At the start of the school year (and subsequently at the start of each new half term), pupils and parents will be provided with information detailing which days homework will be given to children and which days the child should return it to school. Prompt returning of homework is vital so that teachers can check homework and have books ready to be given out for the next set of homework. Any changes to this during the year will be notified at the start of a new half term or term. Below are details of what should be done in each area of the school and how long should be spent on the homework activity.
19. Guidance will be given to indicate the maximum length of time that should be spent on a piece of homework. A child should spend no longer than the given time on the homework tasks unless they choose to.
20. We expect pupils to complete maths work in pencil.
21. We expect children in Reception to Year 2 should complete their English homework in pencil.
22. Homework will not normally be set over holidays. However, individual children may be asked to do some tasks over a holiday period to meet their individual needs.

### This policy supports our school aims to:

- List aims

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of Governors)

Date: Nov 2019

Policy to be reviewed in Nov 2020