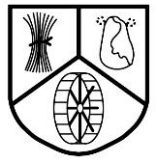


Millersneuk Primary School

Homework Policy

2020



Millersneuk Primary School - Vision, Values & Aims

All pupils are supported to reach their full potential

READY

RESPECTFUL

SAFE

Motivate

Prepare

Succeed



RATIONALE

We believe that homework supports, extends and consolidates the learning covered in the classroom while supporting children to develop self-discipline, independence and the ability to take responsibility for their own learning.

THIS POLICY AIMS TO:

- ✓ raise achievement;
- ✓ ensure a consistency of approach throughout the school;
- ✓ ensure teachers, parents and carers have a clear understanding about expectations of themselves and pupils.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK IS:

- ✓ to encourage pupils to develop the skill, confidence and motivation to study independently at home effectively.
- ✓ to consolidate and reinforce the skills and understanding developed at school.
- ✓ to extend school learning through activities such as additional reading and research.
- ✓ to develop and sustain the involvement of parents in the management of their child's learning and to keep them informed about the work and progress their child is achieving.
- ✓ to explore the wide range of resources for learning at home e.g. Internet, library, adult knowledge and newspapers.
- ✓ to maintain good channels of communication between home and school.
- ✓ to offer pupils the opportunity to extend their learning by including optional, additional challenges or open ended questions.
- ✓ to consolidate learning e.g. the spelling of common/tricky/commonly misspelt words, & various numeracy & mathematics process

HOMEWORK AT MILLERSNEUK PRIMARY SCHOOL - KEY PRINCIPLES:

- ✓ The amount and difficulty of homework is tailored according to the child's age and ability.
- ✓ Sufficient time is allowed for the completion of homework to allow for a healthy home/school work balance.
- ✓ As the children progress through the school so the amount of homework increases.
- ✓ Teachers incorporate homework into their weekly planning and ensure that the tasks are differentiated, purposeful and aimed at developing and consolidating basic skills.
- ✓ Teachers provide parents and pupils with clear instructions for tasks

Homework grids for **Reading, Spelling and Numeracy & Mathematics** are refreshed on a termly basis. The teachers co-construct activities for the grids with pupils in their classes. The class teacher also have explains the various activities, so pupils should be able to carry out these tasks independently.

Although the 'Homework Grids' give children the opportunity to choose activities to complete, each grid (Spelling, Reading and Numeracy & Mathematics or Literacy/N&M Grid in P1) have written activities which can be completed in the children's homework jotters. It is the role of parents to discuss the homework choices available and direct their children to written activities if they so wish.

In Millersneuk Primary we appreciate that both pupils and parents have busy lives outside of school. We also recognise the benefits of children attending clubs and activities for pleasure and how these can develop skills for life. We believe the homework system in Millersneuk Primary School allows for:

- ✓ personalisation and choice for pupils and parents/carers
- ✓ a more flexible approach to completing homework (Grids to support/extend)
- ✓ individual pupil learning styles e.g. written activities and activities that do not require a written response and can be completed orally or through fun, practical tasks
- ✓ the development of **higher order thinking skills** through challenging and creative activities

Activities	
Primary 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nightly Reading ✓ Sounds ✓ Common words ✓ Weekly Numeracy & Mathematics Activity ✓ Homework Grid (Literacy / Numeracy & Mathematics)
Primary 2-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nightly Reading - activities from 'Reading Homework Grid' ✓ Spelling words - activities from 'Spelling Homework Grid' ✓ Numeracy & Mathematics - activities from 'Numeracy & Mathematics Homework Grid' ✓ Weekly Class Teacher directed Numeracy & Mathematics Activity (Homework Textbook may be used for P4 pupils)
Primary 5-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Reading - activities from 'Reading Homework Grid' ✓ Spelling words - activities from 'Spelling Homework Grid' ✓ Numeracy & Mathematics - activities from 'Numeracy & Mathematics Homework Grid' ✓ Weekly Class Teacher directed Numeracy & Mathematics Activity (Homework Textbook may be used for P5-7 pupils)
Other homework activities linked to various curricular areas may be issued in the course of the year e.g. Social Studies research tasks, model building etc	

Homework will consist of:

- ✓ Activities from the 'homework grids'
- ✓ Teacher issued activity sheets/textbook work
(Pupils may choose to complete this work in jotters or sheets and return it by the Friday of each week. Alternatively, pupils may choose to use the sheet/textbook as a stimulus for oral work / whiteboard activities but not as a formal written task).

Suggested Timings for Homework:

Some parents may find it helpful for us to give some guidance on approximate timings for completing homework. If you were doing homework each evening (Mon- Thurs) the suggested timings would be as follows:

Primary 1	Primary 2-4	Primary 5-7
10-15 minutes approximately (per evening)	15-20 minutes approximately (per evening)	20-30 minutes approximately (per evening)

The above is only a suggestion. Parents and children can work out their own homework timetable to suit their busy lives across the week. The number of activities chosen from the grids will increase/decrease the time spent on homework.

Homework should be completed by Friday of each week and **homework folders handed into Class Teachers.**

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOMEWORK:

The school will encourage children to:

- ✓ make their parents aware of any homework given by the teacher.
- ✓ ask for help if it is needed.
- ✓ complete homework to the best of their ability and maintain the same standards of presentation expected in the classroom.
- ✓ ensure that homework is handed in on time if a deadline is given by the teacher.

Teachers in school will:

- ✓ explain the homework task and the learning purpose clearly.
- ✓ set work at the appropriate level.
- ✓ set deadlines if appropriate.

Learning for Life:

These areas of learning are essential and will be encouraged during homework activities:

- ✓ **Talking** - time for talking will encourage interest in learning, the conversations are endless!
- ✓ **Reading** - this may be sharing a book, reading aloud or listening to a story. **Children can choose a range of reading activities suggested in their reading homework grids.**
- ✓ **Spelling** - most children have spellings to learn on a weekly basis and they are often tested. Spelling is an important skill. **Children can choose a range of spelling activities suggested in their spelling homework grids.**
- ✓ **Writing** - children can enjoy practising writing at home. For example they could practise writing their name or the days of the week; they could practise their handwriting or writing a fabulous story!
- ✓ **Times Tables** - this is the most important number skill that children can learn and practise at home. Times tables are often tested in school. Once children know their times tables they will be able to understand many other mathematical concepts and calculations. **Children can choose a range of times tables activities suggested in their numeracy & mathematics homework grids.**
- ✓ **Numeracy & maths work** - this may be counting, learning addition facts, subtraction facts, shapes, measures and playing games involving dice, cards and counters. **Children can choose a range of number activities suggested in their numeracy & mathematics homework grids.**
- ✓ **Research** - children may be asked to find out about areas of the curriculum that they are currently enjoying studying.
- ✓ **Interactive Learning** - children can access a range of interactive learning, including our online programmes:
 - **Bug Club Online (Reading)**
 - **Education City (Numeracy, spelling, other curricular areas)**

Parents can support homework by:

- ✓ providing a suitable place in which their child can do their homework, preferably with an adult to discuss, encourage and support;
- ✓ making it clear to their child that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help learning;
- ✓ encouraging their child and praising them when they have completed work set;
- ✓ signing and dating their child's completed homework to show that it is a true reflection of their best efforts;
- ✓ ensuring work is complete and returned to school on time;
- ✓ checking their child spends a suitable amount of time on homework.

In Millersneuk Primary homework is about reinforcing, practising and confidence building. Enthusing the children about undertaking homework and modelling the high value of homework to them is of key importance.

Through a positive homework policy we aim to encourage a successful partnership between school, parents and pupils, and support learning so that each child achieves success.

Parent Information Meetings & Family Learning Workshops will be held to share Learning & Teaching approaches within various areas of the curriculum, which will help parents work more profitably with their child during homework activities.