

Monkspath Junior and Infant School

Homework Policy

Rationale

Monkspath School believes that homework is an essential part of all children's education. It gives them the opportunity to extend and consolidate work experienced during lesson time. It encourages them to produce creative, reflective and investigative work independent of the teacher and it also develops personal organisation skills and a sense of responsibility.

What do we mean by homework?

At Monkspath School we define homework widely to mean any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time without the guidance of teachers. It is usually done with the support of parents or carers and is an opportunity for adults, other than teachers, to become active partners in supporting learning.

Homework should be enjoyable for the pupil, stimulate imagination and creativity, as well as reinforcing what is taught in the classroom. Pupils generally enjoy continuing activities, sharing their experiences and ideas as well as bringing work started at home back into school.

The purpose of homework

We feel homework is a vital means of helping to raise student achievement and every student sees that the school and home are working together in a partnership to provide support and encouragement. It also enables the school to offer some pastoral support beyond the school day.

We believe that the main reasons for children being provided with homework are:

- To develop further links with parents,
- To help parents/ carers understand more clearly what and how their children are learning in school,
- To give children the opportunity to practise and consolidate their learning, particularly in core subjects,
- To encourage self discipline and perseverance,
- To help children to learn to use time wisely, to develop confidence, independence and be curious learners
- To increase pupils' self esteem and to help them to know that their achievements are regarded as being important by both home and school,
- To make use of all kinds of learning resources and opportunities at home,
- To extend school learning into the home in an enjoyable way,
- To extend the application of skills and knowledge taught within lessons to differing contexts and for real life situations,
- To develop skills in personal organisation and a sense of responsibility,
- To prepare for the next stage of education.

How can we support teaching and learning through homework?

Class teachers have the responsibility to see that homework is completed. Homework also needs to be:

- Specific and differentiated for pupils at different ages,
- Appropriate for the level of ability that the pupil is working at,
- Regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure that it is manageable by both pupil and staff,
- Supported by parents and carers.

The nature of homework activities

We feel that the most appropriate homework activities are those which encourage parents/ carers and their child to enjoy working time together.

For our younger children, great emphasis is placed on the children and the parent/ carer doing things together through games, fun activities and enjoying learning facts. For example, learning spellings can be made into a spot the word, snap or, matching activity.

Following government guidance on recommended time for homework we provide homework for each Year group as detailed in the grid at the end of this policy.

The role of parents/ carers

In order for children to gain the most from the homework set parents/ carers should endeavour to:

- Demonstrate how much homework is valued,
- Provide a suitably quiet place, free from distractions,
- Pick a suitable time to work either together or independently,
- Support their child with the activity,
- Encourage and praise their child for their efforts and regular commitment to homework,
- Encourage children of all ages to read as much and as widely as possible.

Matching the activity to the child's needs

The school takes account of the needs of all children when planning homework activities to ensure that the level of demand is appropriate and that guidance to parents/ carers is clear.

Recording of homework and homework planners

All homework is to be recorded in the student Planner under the supervision of the class teacher. Class teachers will check and sign homework diaries weekly and will respond to any comments by parents.

Pupils are required to have their homework planners with them at all times and to develop a responsible attitude towards completing homework.

Help with homework

If a child needs help with homework they can talk to friends, family, and then, of course, the class teacher who can always be approached for additional support.