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Nelson Academy

Policy: Homework

Author: Sarah Wilson (Principal)

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Nelson Academy Homework Policy

At Nelson Academy, we define homework as any activity that children undertake outside of school time, either independently or with the support of family members. Parental involvement significantly contributes to children's success and homework allows us to develop this partnership.

Why give homework?

- To repeat something done in class to consolidate understanding
- As a chance for parents to see what their children are learning
- To allow children to apply learning to new contexts
- To further stimulate enthusiasm for learning
- As an opportunity to rehearse key skills such as times tables, doubling facts, spelling and reading fluency
- To foster good habits of organisation and self-discipline in preparation for the demands of secondary school

Homework at Nelson Academy

As a school, we absolutely believe in the importance of homework and its educational benefits. However, homework is not something that should dominate home and school life. We appreciate that everyone has things out of school that can, at times, mean homework is not completed. Homework should be enjoyable and manageable for everybody concerned.

As a school, we do not specify exact amounts of time to be spent on a particular task, preferring individual children and families to set their own routines. Class teachers are more than happy to give advice.

Homework is something we hope that children enjoy completing at home. Children will not be punished if they fail to complete their homework. However, discreet homework registers are kept by teachers. If a pupil consistently fails to complete homework, this will be discussed with children and their parents.

Our routines and expectations

All classes will give out homework on a Wednesday and the work should be discussed in class before being issued. Homework will be set electronically on ClassDojo. Children should upload their completed homework on their ClassDojo portfolio so that their teacher can see it and mark it.

Occasionally, additional homework may also be sent home. For example, in Year 6, children are required to solve arithmetic questions at speed. As a result of this, extra opportunities to develop these skills may be sent home. Many teachers will also set optional homework to be completed online. It is good practice to only issue homework that children should already be able to complete. Parents are not expected to teach new skills and concepts.

Children are expected to maintain the same standards of presentation of homework as we set in school. As an example, children should complete their work neatly, demonstrating their best handwriting.

Year Group Expectations

Nursery - To learn nursery rhymes, songs and read books together. Talk about the pictures and try to tell the story. Encourage children to count during their daily routines and recognise colours in their home and local environments.

Reception - Children will have reading books that link to their individual phonics level sent home on a regular basis. They will also receive a new phonics focus each week.

Year 1 - Children will have reading books that link to their individual phonics level sent home on a regular basis. They will also receive one piece of homework per week (which could be English or Maths) as well as regular spellings.

Years 2, 3 & 4 - Children will receive weekly homework and spellings. Children should also continue to take home books to read for pleasure.

Years 5 & 6 - Children will receive weekly homework and spellings. They will also be given extra homework when teachers deem it necessary to help secure progress. Children should also continue to take home books to read for pleasure.

Times Tables

Times tables are vital to children's success in maths. Children find it so much easier to access new mathematical concepts when they have a good understanding of their tables and the corresponding division facts. To help with this, children will be given log in details for Times Tables Rock Stars so that they can practise their tables at home.

By the end of Year 2, all children need to know their 2x, 5x and 10x tables fluently.

By the end of Year 3, all children need to continue to practise their 2x, 5x and 10x tables but to also learn their 3x, 4x and 8x tables.

By the end of Year 4, all children should know all of their times tables up to 12 x 12. They should then continue to work on tables recall throughout Year 5 and Year 6 too.

What to do if you have any concerns

If you have any issues with homework, please contact your child's teacher immediately. The whole point of homework is to have fun and consolidate learning. If these things aren't happening, then we are happy to discuss things we could do differently.

Sarah Wilson (Principal) – September 2026