

Bierton CE Combined School and Nursery

Homework Policy



'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven'
Matthew 5:16

Date: September 2025

Date of Review: September 2026

Homework Policy

Vision

In our Church school, our vision is to "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven."

Rationale & Principles

We believe that homework is a number of tasks or activities which pupils are asked to do on their own or with their parents in order to reinforce curricular objectives and learning outcomes.

We believe homework consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding in numeracy, literacy and other curriculum areas, helps raise the level of achievement of individual pupils, provides opportunities for parents and children to work together and, thereby, fostering an effective partnership between home and school.

Aims

- To enable pupils to make maximum progress in their academic and social development;
- To promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning;
- To consolidate and reinforce the learning completed in school, and to allow children to practise skills taught in lessons;
- To help children develop good working practice for the future;
- To encourage children to develop the confidence, independence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education;
- To make expectations about homework clear to children, parents and other carers;
- To ensure a consistent approach throughout the school.

Homework Apps

Doodle

At Bierton, in Years 2-5 we use the software 'Doodle' as our little and often approach to home learning. Doodle builds confidence and ability in Maths and English by creating every child a personalised work programme, tailored to their strengths and weaknesses.

Teachers assign tasks each week which support the learning in class and are appropriate for each individual child's needs. Pupils are also encouraged (and rewarded) to be in the green zone, this is achieved by using Doodle little and often. Parents are encouraged to link to their child's account to monitor their child's progress.



Numbots

Addition & Subtraction. Solved. NumBots is all about every child achieving the “triple win” of understanding, recall and fluency in mental addition and subtraction, so that they move from counting to calculating.



TTRS

Times Tables Rock Stars is a maths programme that takes all the worry out of learning times tables and has a proven track record of boosting children’s fluency and recall in multiplication and division. They will ‘Rock’ at their times tables!



Learning by Question (LBQ) – Year 6 only

Our Year 6 children at Bierton CE Combined School use SATs Springboard (part of Learning by Questions) for their weekly homework tasks. This platform provides personalised support and feedback for each pupil and can be used by the class teacher to quickly identify and address misconceptions and learning needs. In addition to weekly arithmetic activities, the children may be set personalised activities to help them develop their knowledge and understanding.



Accelerated Reader – Years 2-6 (NB, they may start in Year 1 if they have finished the phonics programme)
Motivated readers, improved skills!

Accelerated Reader motivates students to read more through engaging quizzes, goal setting, and personalized recommendations. As students increase their reading volume, they develop greater reading stamina, word recognition, and language comprehension skills.



Acceler
Reader



Responsibility for the Policy and Procedure

Role of the Teachers

Teachers must:

- Set homework in line with their year group's expectations
- Set phonics videos linked to their current phonics group
- Regularly monitor engagement with
 - English & Maths Doodle App (Years 2-5)
 - Learning by Questions (Year 6)
 - Numbots (Reception – completion of Diamond level)
 - TTRS (Years 2-6)
 - Accelerated Reader (Years 2-6)
- Track how long each child is spending on each homework platform
- Follow the procedures in the 'failure to complete homework' section
- Celebrate and incentivise children's homework achievements

Role of Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are asked to:

- encourage their child(ren) to complete the homework tasks that are set;
- provide a suitable space in their home where their children can concentrate on their homework;
- establish a homework routine;
- be available to support if needed;
- listen to their child read regularly throughout the week; sign and date reading record if applicable
- encourage and praise their child's efforts;
- contact the class teacher at the earliest opportunity if their child is experiencing difficulties in doing it;
- inform the class teacher if their child is having difficulties accessing the online homework activities so they can attend homework club if needed;
- if their child is in Years 2-5, download the parent app and monitor progress on the Doodle apps.

Role of Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- complete their homework on time;
- make sure they understand what is asked of them;
- seek support if required from their class teacher or through attendance of homework club.

Time Allocation & Types of Homework

Homework is regarded as an integral part of the curriculum – it is planned and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning. Types of homework tasks and our recommended time allocation are as follows:

Reception & Year 1

- Reading and sharing books daily for at least 10 minutes; adults to keep a signed record in their reading record diary. Each signed date in their reading record contributes to their half termly Reading Olympics target (Gold = 30 dates; Silver = 25 dates; Bronze: 20 dates).
- Watch phonics videos – these will be sent out weekly via Parentmail
- Numbots – in Reception spend at least 10 minutes each week from Autumn 2; in Year 1 spend 15 minutes each week from September.
- If you would like to, complete an activity from the project pick n' mix across the term. Your teachers would love to see them!

Years 2-5

Year Group	Numbots (continue until Diamond level is completed)	TTRS	Doodle Maths/ times tables	Doodle English/ Spelling	Reading
2	10 mins	10 mins	25 mins	25 mins	Daily
3	20 mins	20 mins	25 mins	25 mins	Daily
4	20 mins	25 mins	25 mins	25 mins	Daily
5	20 mins	30 mins	25 mins	25 mins	Daily

- Daily reading for at least 15 minutes.
 - Children on the RWI programme will keep a reading record diary. Each signed date in their reading record contributes to their half termly Reading Olympics target (Gold = 30 dates; Silver = 25 dates; Bronze: 20 dates).
 - Children who have completed the RWI programme will complete quizzes on Accelerated Reader. These will be tracked and monitored by class teachers. Their half termly quiz average will contribute to their Reading Olympics target (Gold: 95%; Silver: 90%; Bronze: 85%).

Year 6

- Daily reading for at least 20 minutes
 - Children will complete quizzes on Accelerated Reader. These will be tracked and monitored by class teachers. Their half termly quiz average will contribute to their Reading Olympics target (Gold: 95%; Silver: 90%; Bronze: 85%).
- Complete weekly arithmetic paper on LBQ
- Complete weekly SPAG activity on LBQ
- Complete weekly spelling activity on LBQ
- Complete 30 minutes a week on TTRS (10 minutes Studio; 20 minutes Garage).

Year 6 children will receive SATs revision activities and tasks during the Easter holidays.

When should homework be set

Homework will be set consistently across the school on the following weeks. No homework will be set during the final week of each half term and during any holidays. Children will still be set homework during assessment weeks.

Autumn

W.b. 15th September, 22nd September, 29th September, 6th October, 13th October, 3rd November, 10th November, 17th November, 24th November, 1st December, 8th December.

Spring

W.b. 12th January, 19th January, 26th January, 2nd February, 23rd February, 2nd March, 9th March, 16th March.

Summer

W.b. 13th April, 20th April, 27th April, 4th May, 11th May, 1st June, 8th June, 15th June, 22nd June, 29th June, 6th July.

Homework rewards and sanctions

Rewards

- TTRS – Certificates will be presented fortnightly. Children will receive a certificate when they reach their next rock status. In addition, the top 3 pupils in the following categories will also receive a certificate: 'most coins earned'; 'fastest current studio speed'; 'most improved studio speed'; 'highest accuracy' and 'most improved accuracy'.
- Numbots – Certificates will be presented fortnightly. Children will receive a certificate when they complete a Numbots stage, (e.g. rust, tin, copper etc.) The 3 pupils who earn the most coins each fortnight will also receive a certificate.
- Accelerated Reader – certificates will be presented at the end of each half-term. The children may receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate depending on their quiz average.
- RWI – certificates will be presented at the end of each half-term. The children may receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate depending on number of times read.
- Doodle – children can unlock digital badges and can earn a streak through daily participation. There will also be whole school and inter-class competitions.

Failure to Return Completed Homework

If a pupil fails to return completed homework within the time, the following procedures will be implemented (*teachers will use their professional judgement and understanding of the child's circumstances when implementing these guidelines*):

- If a child has a genuine reason, such as failure to understand the task, then parents should be encouraged to notify their child's class teacher so that the problem can be addressed.
- From Year 2 – Year 6, if a child does not complete their set Doodle (or LBQ in Year 6) homework on time, they will have to attend homework club to complete it.

- If homework is not completed again within the same half term, a notification will go home to parents via a telephone call or ParentMail (See Appendix).
- If there is still no further improvement, the parents will be invited in to school to discuss these concerns and reiterate the importance of their child completing homework.
- In cases of illness/ absence, it is the teacher's discretion to decide if there are any consequences

Homework Club

This will be held weekly between 12:15 and 12:45pm. Children will go to the hall afterwards to have their lunch. Children can attend homework club to complete homework in advance of the deadline. If there are any children who have failed to complete their homework by the deadline, they will be sent to complete their homework at the next homework club.

Monitoring the Quality of Homework & The Effectiveness of the Policy

The implementation of this policy and procedures will be monitored in the following way:

- By class teacher through dialogue with parents and pupils, and the monitoring process
- By phase teams through discussion of the quantity of tasks completed on a fortnightly basis

The policy will be reviewed annually (or when the need arises).

Appendix A

Dear Parents/ carers,

I wanted to make you aware that _____ has failed to complete his/ her homework on at least two separate occasions this half term. Homework is important because it develops core skills in young children that will serve them throughout school and working life. The Education Endowment Fund has carried out a lot of research on the impact of homework and it has found that on average pupils make +3 months progress within year by completing Maths and English tasks linked to their learning.

I have attached our homework policy for reference. We do run a homework club for children to attend at lunchtimes. If you feel your child would benefit from attending then please let us know and we will ensure he/ she attends.

If you would like to discuss this further then please email the office at office@biertoncombined.bucks.sch.uk

Kind regards