



ALTRINCHAM PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Homework Policy

Author:	Mrs Holly Finnie – Deputy Headteacher
Responsible Person:	Mr Nick Vernon – Headmaster
Date of last review:	September 2025 – Mrs Holly Finnie
Summary of changes:	Review of year group homework activities
Date of next review:	September 2026

This policy applies to Altrincham Preparatory School, including the EYFS. It is available to current and prospective parents upon request and is published on the School's website.

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy outlines the organisation and management of homework at Altrincham Preparatory School (APS).

At APS, we place great importance on the constructive use of homework. While homework is a discipline in itself, it also forms an integral part of school life, providing opportunities for the consolidation of learning, independent study, research, and extension beyond the classroom.

2. AIMS

Through this policy, we aim to:

- foster an effective partnership between school and parents, encouraging and sharing the boys' learning experiences
- ensure clear and shared expectations between parents, pupils, and staff
- promote a consistent approach to homework across the school
- use homework as a tool to consolidate classwork and support high standards of attainment

By setting homework, we encourage boys to:

- make sustained academic progress
- consolidate, extend, and reinforce learning covered in class
- develop perseverance, self-discipline, and self-organisation
- broaden their learning through research and the use of external resources
- work independently and develop study skills
- build positive routines and work habits that promote lifelong learning

3. RANGE OF HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES

Homework tasks may include:

- structured schemes encouraging parental involvement in reading, spelling, or mathematics
- mathematical exercises to consolidate classroom learning
- English tasks such as comprehension, reasoning, and creative writing
- assignments linked to topic work or cross-curricular projects
- corrections or improvements to previous work
- reading for pleasure and information, both fiction and non-fiction
- revision and preparation for tests

4. ENTITLEMENT

All boys are entitled to homework activities that are appropriate to their needs. Staff will differentiate tasks where necessary to ensure that homework reinforces learning and enables all pupils to make good progress.

We strive to meet the needs of boys with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), those with exceptional gifts or talents, and those for whom English is an additional language (EAL). For further information, please refer to the SEND Policy.

All boys are expected to participate fully in homework activities.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

In line with our Equal Opportunities Policy, APS is committed to providing homework that supports, extends, and reinforces learning for every pupil. Each boy is valued, respected, and challenged regardless of religion, race, background, culture, or disability.

6. PLANNING AND ORGANISATION OF HOMEWORK

Each pupil, in every year group, is expected to read each night.
Weekly spelling lists (Years 1–6) are given in addition to regular homework.

Early Years Foundation Stage (Pre-School and Reception)

There is no formal homework in Pre-School. However, parents are encouraged to support their sons in the prime areas of learning:

- Communication & Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The School will provide guidance to parents through workshops and communication.

In Reception, homework focuses on reading and early comprehension skills.

Pre-Prep: Years 1 and 2

Homework is set twice weekly (Monday and Wednesday).

Year 1:

- Spellings are given out on Monday for a test the following Monday.
- Mathematics homework is set on a Monday, to be returned on Wednesday.
- English homework is set on Wednesday, to be returned the following Monday.
- Online Athletics activities are set each Friday.
- Optional TTRS throughout the week.

Year 2:

- Spellings are given out on Monday for a test the following Monday, and again on Friday for the following Friday.
- Monday homework (English) is returned on Wednesday.
- Wednesday homework (Mathematics) is returned on Friday.
- Online Athletics activities are set each Friday.

Reading should be completed daily at home for at least ten minutes, with an adult listening and recording comments in the Reading Record.

Occasional weekend homework may be set, particularly in the latter part of Year 2 to prepare boys for transition to Prep.

Prep: Years 3–6

Homework is set according to the year group's allocation (see next page).

Year 3:

Homework is set on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Instructions are written in the boys' Homework Books.

Years 4–6:

Homework is set daily, and instructions are posted electronically via Google Classroom.

In Years 5 and 6, not all homework will be due the next day. Teachers may allow several days for completion to encourage independence and effective organisation in preparation for senior school.

Homework tasks will be drawn from a range of subjects and will focus on developing different learning skills, such as:

- research and retrieval
- note-taking and summarising
- drafting and editing
- collecting and evaluating information
- revision and rote learning
- presenting findings
- creative and practical tasks
- ICT and problem solving

Reading at home continues to be essential:

Year 3: boys read their school reading book daily for at least 20 minutes.

Years 4–6: boys engage in 'free reading' for a minimum of 20 minutes daily.

7. RECOMMENDED TIME ALLOCATIONS

Homework should not be excessive or cause stress within the family. The following times are offered as general guidelines:

Year Group	Suggested Duration
Pre-School / Reception	10–15 minutes
Years 1–2	20 minutes
Year 3	up to 20 minutes (3 times a week: Mon, Wed, Fri)
Year 4	up to 30 minutes (5 times a week)
Year 5	up to 40 minutes (5 times a week)
Year 6	up to 50 minutes (5 times a week)

We recognise that some boys will complete work more quickly than others. Teachers will set tasks appropriate to the needs and ability of each pupil.

If a boy is struggling, parents should inform the class teacher, and the pupil should not be expected to continue beyond a reasonable time. Similarly, if homework is completed rapidly, parents should note this in the Homework Diary, and the boy may continue with additional reading or enrichment tasks.

Parents with queries about homework are encouraged to contact their son's Class Teacher.

8. GENERAL GUIDANCE

If a boy is absent due to illness, homework will not be sent home, as it is assumed he is unwell.

Where an absence is prolonged (for example, following injury or surgery), the teacher and parents will agree how best to manage work from home and marking arrangements.

9. REPORTING TO PARENTS

Reports are issued to parents throughout the academic year. Teachers may comment on each boy's approach to homework, including effort, consistency, quality, and success in regular spelling or mathematics assessments.

10. MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Deputy Headteacher and Headmaster, in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, hold overall responsibility for the Homework Policy and will review it annually to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness.

11. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Class Teachers

Class Teachers are responsible for:

- ensuring parents are fully informed at the start of each academic year about homework expectations and procedures
- setting regular, purposeful homework in a consistent routine
- providing clear instructions and guidance where needed
- ensuring homework is linked to current curriculum learning
- differentiating tasks to meet the needs of all pupils
- marking homework and providing timely feedback
- rewarding effort and celebrating high standards
- maintaining consistency of expectations within year groups or phases

Headmaster, Deputy Headteacher, and Governing Body

The Headmaster, Deputy Headteacher, and Governors are responsible for:

- ensuring compliance with this policy
- discussing implementation with staff and reviewing its effectiveness
- meeting and communicating with parents as appropriate
- ensuring that new parents are informed of the school's homework expectations

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are expected to:

- support their son by encouraging effort and pride in completing homework
- provide a suitable place and environment for study
- sign homework books, reading records, or diaries weekly (as appropriate for the year group), and communicate with the class teacher if homework cannot be completed and provide a brief written explanation
- show interest in and praise their son's work
- value homework as part of the learning process

Senior Leadership Team and Phase Leaders

The Senior Leadership Team and Phase Leaders are responsible for:

- ensuring this policy is implemented consistently across their phase

- advising the Headmaster of relevant staff training needs
- supporting colleagues with effective homework strategies
- monitoring homework quality through planning and work scrutiny

12. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Deputy Headteacher and Headmaster, in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team and Governors.