

Minimus – How do I Get Started?

Barbara Bell

1. Buy a copy of the Minimus Pupil's Book published by Cambridge University Press, ISBN No: The current price is £10.95.
2. Attend a Minimus Training Day. Please look at our website www.minimus.com for current dates.
3. Approach a school. It may be that you would like to set up Minimus in a primary school where you already teach or where your children or grandchildren attended or still attend or you already have contact with the Head or the governing body or you teach at the local secondary school and have been encouraged to make links with your local feeder primary schools or you live in the area.
4. Make an appointment to see the Head. Take the Pupil's Book and some publicity leaflets with you (you can obtain these from me). Stress the sales figures and the international nature of the Project. Stress that Minimus supports the teaching of English and Modern Foreign Languages and provides enrichment material for Gifted and Talented children. It can also be used and enjoyed by children with learning difficulties. Stress that it is based on a real family that lived near Hadrian's Wall so uses primary source material and is a cross curricular course.
5. Stress that grants are available to help buy the books. These grants are available for both state and independent schools in the UK and can be used to purchase both of the Pupil's Books, both of the Teacher's Books and the CDs. The money is not available to pay for teaching time.
6. Stress that Inset events are run each year on Saturdays. The current cost is £50 for a days training and this includes all materials and refreshments. If there is not an Inset event which you can conveniently attend do write and let me know and it may be possible to organise something more locally. I am also willing to visit schools and talk to Heads, Curriculum Planners and whole staff meetings.
7. State Schools – Minimus can be used as a lunch time, after school and even before school club. It has also been used on the timetable in some schools as it supports the aims of the literacy hour.
8. Independent Schools – Minimus can be used profitably with children as young as seven as a fun introduction to Latin before the serious business of Common Entrance. To see how it supports the teaching of Common Entrance ask for Michelle Anderson's support sheet no. 41.
9. Offer your services as a volunteer. If the school wants to pay your travel or offer any other form of remuneration – even better.
10. If you can acquire it take some local or national publicity about the book with you.
11. Agree a time and a venue to suit you both.
12. Ask if you will have access to the school photocopier or will someone in the school do photocopying for you. Do you have access to art and craft materials as many of the Minimus activities require these?
13. Who is your link person who will tell you if lessons are cancelled because of Sports Day, outings etc?
14. Make sure you and the school are on the PLP mailing list to receive the Newsletter by email.
15. Do feel free to contact me at bmbellmini@aol.com telephone 0117 953 1819 for help and advice.

GOOD LUCK!