

INDEPENDENT POLICY (including Homework)

Linked policy: Teaching and Learning

Reviewed: February 2016

Independent Learning Policy (including Homework)

1. Rationale

Independent learning adds a substantial amount of study time over a school career, and so plays a valuable part in a student's education. It is part of the overall teaching and learning strategy of the school.

2. Purpose

The purpose of homework is:

- to encourage students to become independent learners and self managers. This involves getting them to plan their time, keep to deadlines and think ahead.
- to give time for independent research and to promote further interest in their learning beyond what is provided by the teacher in the classroom.
- to provide opportunities for students to complete extension work and to consolidate their learning in the classroom. At KS4, students need the extra time at home to complete elements of the course independently.

Homework is not:

- for parents to complete;
- work for the sake of it;
- designed to take away pupils' social life – clubs and hobbies are a vital part of becoming a fully rounded person and are learning activities in themselves.

3. Broad Guidelines

- Independent study should be a regular part of a student's life.
- At KS3, students have a mixture of weekly homework tasks and longer projects.
- At KS4, students are set homework tasks to complement the course they are following, e.g. some homework may be coursework tasks if this meets the needs of the course.
- Guidelines for the setting of homework for each subject in KS3 and 4 are shown at Appendix A.
- It is the responsibility of the student to record homework in their planner and to check and monitor using 'Show My Homework'. (Pre-printed stickers/TA or teacher help will be provided for students with learning difficulties to record their tasks.) Students will be given time in lessons to record their homework and also to ask questions about the tasks set. Teachers use the planners to record when homework has not been completed and it is also used as a means of communication between the school and home.
- Study facilities are on offer before school, at lunch and after school in the form of the ALC facilities, cyber café and coursework/exam help sessions at KS4.
- Students are expected to devote more time to independent study as they progress through the school.
- Independent study tasks are designed to be interesting and motivate students in their learning.
- Feedback on homework should be provided to the student by the teacher in line with the school and department marking policy (see Marking and Feedback Policy).
- There will be a zero-tolerance policy for students not completing their homework or completing homework to a poor standard (in relation to the students' ability) without good reason. Students will be sanctioned in accordance with the attached flow chart shown in appendix B: "Homework – Liskeard School sanctions for non-completion."
- The skills of independent learning are encouraged during lessons through the brain, book, buddy, boss strategy.

4. Show My homework

- Show My Homework is an online homework platform that the school uses to ensure homework is set and communicated with students and parents across the school.
- Since September 2015, all teachers use it to set homework and ensure that learners and parents always have the information they need about homework available via the Web, Mobile and Tablet devices.

- Homework can be accessed by teachers, students and parents by follow the link on the school website or by going to liskeardschool.showmyhomework.co.uk. There is no login required to see the school homework calendar.
- A personalised homework calendar is available for all users including students and parents. This enables students and parents to only see their own homework schedule.
- Show My Homework is used to monitor the frequency and quality of homework set. This is the responsibility of Heads of Faculty and the Deputy Head.

5. **Monitoring and Quality Assurance**

- The frequency and number of homework tasks set is monitored using a weekly report generated by the 'Show My Homework' online tool.
- The Curriculum Deputy responsible for homework will publish this report weekly with all Heads of Faculty and SLT. This should be analysed by Heads of Faculty and is a standing agenda item at each faculty line management meeting.
- The quality of homework tasks set is checked through the termly book trawls as per the Monitoring Calendar. Homework should be clearly marked in books and is scrutinized. In addition, SLT will conduct random checks and may investigate any areas of concern in more detail.

Appendix A

Subject	Key Stage 3 Homework Guidelines	
English	Spelling & Vocabulary homework set every fortnight.	15 mins every 2-3 days
	Punctuation & Grammar homework set every fortnight.	30 mins minimum per week
	Reading, research and other writing tasks may be set depending on year group, ability and topic.	Up to 60 mins
Maths	Set once or twice per week	40 mins per week
Science	Set once per week.	30 mins per week (Y7 & 8) 45 mins per week (Y9)
	Additional project work may also be given.	
French & Spanish	Once per week	20 – 45 mins per week.
Technology	4 or 5 fortnightly homeworks for each 9 week rotation	30 – 60 mins per HW.
History & Geography	Homework set every fortnight.	30 – 45 mins per HW.
RE	Two homeworks set per half-term	30 – 45 mins per HW (Y7 & 8) 60 mins per HW (Y9)
Art	Project homework set over the term	Approx 30 mins per week
Drama	No formal homework	
Music	No formal homework, however occasionally some research or listening tasks will be set.	
PE	No formal homework	
PHSCE	Newswatch homework set once per week	20 mins

Subject	Key Stage 4 Homework Guidelines	
English	Spelling & Vocabulary homework set every fortnight.	15 mins every 2-3 days
	Punctuation & Grammar homework set every fortnight.	60 mins minimum per week
	In addition: exam practice & revision. There will also be text study (for those studying English Literature).	As appropriate
Maths	Set once or twice per week	60 mins per week
Science	Set once or twice per week.	90 mins per week
	Additional assignments, booster sessions and mentoring may also take place.	
French & Spanish	Once per week	60 mins per week.
Technology Subjects	Once per week	60 mins per week.
History & Geography	Once per week (or a longer HW may be set for the fortnight)	60 mins per week
RE	Two homeworks set per half-term	60 mins per HW
Art & Photography	Once per week	60 mins per HW
Drama	Homework is set every fortnight and are a variety of performance related tasks e.g. rehearsals. Written tasks may also be set.	As appropriate
Music	Weekly written task	60 mins per HW
	On-going practise of performance skills/composition is expected.	As appropriate
PE	Homework is set every fortnight for those opting to do GCSE PE.	60 mins per homework
	On-going practise of performance skills is expected.	As appropriate
PHSCE	Newswatch homework set once per week	20 mins

Appendix B

Homework

Liskeard School sanctions for non-completion.

If a student does not do homework for your subject it is the teacher's responsibility to follow this up in the first instance. This should be done via setting a Teacher/Department 20 minute lunchtime detention.

The homework should be done/started in the 20 minute Teacher/Department Detention. If complete the work should be handed to the teacher; if not another deadline for completion should be set.

If the does not attend the Teacher/Department detention the issue should be referred to the HOY for a 1 hour ASD.

If the homework is project homework there must be an interim deadline set and the teacher should check the progress of the work towards target at this point. (If appropriate, written feedback should be provided.) If the student does not produce work at the interim please contact parents to make them aware of the issue and deadline. This should minimise the number of students not handing in project homework.

All homework set should be appropriately differentiated and accessible to all students.

