



Home Learning Policy

Written	February 2018
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Signed: Head Teacher	_____
Chair of Trustees	_____



Rationale

At the Iffley Academy we recognise the value in the learning that can take place outside of school and use the phrase, 'Home Learning', rather than 'Homework'.

Home learning is anything that our students do outside the normal school day that contributes to their learning in response a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support students' learning.

The Iffley Academy believes that homework opportunities need to be relevant to the individual needs of each student.

We recognise that our students benefit from the mutual support of parents/carers and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. In addition to the home-school link books, email or telephone communication system, home learning can be an important way of further developing a successful dialogue between home and school. Home learning also supports independent learning.

Whilst home learning is of great value, we acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Therefore it should not prevent our students from taking part in after school clubs and organisations that are key in helping the development of social independence.

The Iffley Academy appreciates that home learning may cause anxiety for some of our students. Therefore teachers liaise with parents/carers when setting tasks to be completed at home. We welcome feedback from home via parents' evenings, annual reviews, post admissions meeting and the home-school diary/email system.

This policy is therefore designed to be flexible and not a meaningless chore for students, parents/carers or teachers.

Aims and objectives

- To enable students to make maximum progress in their academic and social development
- To help students develop the skills of an independent learner and take ownership of their own learning
- To promote a partnership between home and school in supporting every child's learning
- To help students develop good work habits for the future
- To allow students the opportunity to develop their own interests
- To revisit and consolidate learning in the classroom

Practice

- Any home learning task that is given must be of value to each individual student
- Our students work hard during the school day so work of an academic nature may not always be appropriate and should take on a variety of forms
- Home learning tasks should not cause undue stress on the student, parent/carer or teacher
- Teachers, in consultation with parents/carers, are happy to discuss the type of activities that would be the most beneficial, but there will be no formal marking of the completed work, unless a student wished to complete practice exam papers
- Sometimes a student may be requested to complete unfinished class work at home, but this is only in agreement with student, parent/carer and teacher
- There are opportunities for a student's termly outcome plan (TOPs) target to be linked to a home learning activity

Types of home learning

We aim for a selection of tasks set to be interactive and engaging in order to support parent/carers in encouraging their child to complete the tasks at home.

Some examples are below:

- Maths Active Learn website can be accessed from home
- 6th form pupils are encouraged to complete their work experience booklets
- Working from a range of recommended websites to support exam preparation in Guggenheim and MCA galleries
- Functional Skills practice papers in English and Maths
- A range of discussion tasks to share with parents, carers, siblings, etc.
- A range of termly English and Maths activities to complete each term
- Gathering photographic evidence, using a school camera, to demonstrate life skills opportunities within the home and local community

Celebration of home learning

We value dialogue with parents/carers and encourage home learning tasks to be emailed to the Learning Managers for English and Maths. This has proved to be very successful and the work is often accompanied by photographs of the learning taking place.



Students' home learning activities are then recognized and celebrated at the end of term prize-giving assembly where a Home Learning award is presented.

Monitoring

The Deputy Head teacher and the Learning Managers are responsible for monitoring the Home Learning policy. This team is also responsible for supporting colleagues in setting home learning and for providing strategic lead and direction for the area in the school.

This policy will be reviewed in consultation with pupils, staff and the Teaching and Learning committee.