



INDEPENDENT LEARNING POLICY	
Last reviewed Summer 2018	Date of next Review Autumn 2020
HEADTEACHER	Author: SAHT

1. Policy Statement

At Worthing High School, we believe that Independent Learning (homework) is an integral part of our students' education. Independent study both reinforces and extends learning and provides students with opportunities for self- assessment. Independent Learning is designed to help our students foster a positive attitude to lifelong learning. It should underpin the curriculum at both Key Stages by providing students, teachers and parents/carers with additional opportunities to evaluate and review learning and progress.

Learning beyond lessons is considered essential to student's success at Worthing High School. It can contribute significantly to their progress. Students will be expected to complete tasks for all the subjects they study which they can complete either at home, in the LRC or in subject specific sessions after school.

Independent Learning tasks will cater for all styles of learning and be differentiated according to a student's individual learning needs. Independent Learning will be regularly monitored by subject staff. Some pieces of Independent Learning may also be formatively assessed according to the subject assessment criteria.

Independent Learning tasks can include:

- Written assignments
- Projects that last more than 1 week
- Independent research
- Exam questions
- Specific tasks on web based system such as SAM Learning/My Maths

Non- completion of Independent Learning tasks will have the following consequences:

- A second chance for students to submit the task
- A subject detention if the task remains outstanding

2. General Principles

Independent Learning task is differentiated work given by the teacher to be completed independently by the student. It may involve research, practice consolidation or extension of what has been learned in the lesson, or application of knowledge acquired in the lesson. Increasingly, it may include preparing or learning materials for delivering part of a forthcoming lesson. This is known as Flipped Learning. In addition, KS3 students should be reading for 20 minutes each day as part of The Accelerated Reader programme to improve Literacy. Independent Learning tasks will generally build on and link to a series of lessons. It may take the form of a series of small tasks that are likely to be linked to a larger end result, which will be assessed. Every effort is made to engage the interest of the student when setting Independent Learning tasks.

Good Practice

Independent Learning tasks will be linked to topics being taught in class. They will be set to coincide with the appropriate lesson on the topic being studied and explained in context.

- The Independent Learning task will be noted in the student's planner
- Deadlines will not be extended except in special circumstances.
- Subject teachers and leaders will reward outstanding Independent Learning using the reward scheme.

Monitoring

- Parents/carers will have the greatest role here; we ask parents/carers to check and discuss homework listed on the online homework system - "Show My Homework", by downloading the app to be able to monitor student work and to check student planners on a weekly basis and Form Tutors will support this by monitoring them during each half term.
 - **In KS3 we expect that over a week students should have at least four hours' worth of Independent Learning tasks per week and KS4 should have at least five hours' on average per week.** Inevitably there will be weekly variation and any concerns should be viewed over a longer period, a month for instance.
- Subject Leaders check the setting of Independent Learning task by the members of their Subject Area.
- Key Stage Leads will intervene where it is clear a student requires additional support with meeting deadlines or achieving results in line with their ability.
 - Subject teachers will impose appropriate sanctions where Independent Learning task deadlines are not met or where the Independent Learning task was not completed to a satisfactory quality.

What will be set?

- The changing nature of the examinations in Year 11 mean that Independent Learning tasks will be short tasks designed to help students rehearse, practice and remember the knowledge that they will need to apply.
 - Across all subjects there will be a greater emphasis on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) and this will appear in Independent Learning tasks.
 - Some preparation work for the task is likely to take place in class.
 - Some Subject areas will have a number of smaller tasks, which add value to the topic being studied, provide opportunities for 'enrichment', consolidation, preparation, revision or possibly optional self-study tasks.

How will it be monitored?

- Independent Learning tasks will have deadlines and these will be entered into planners and via the online homework system - "Show My Homework". Parents/carers are asked to discuss these with students and assist them to plan their Independent Learning
- Parents/carers are asked to discuss with their child/ children how they use their planner and sign it weekly; these will also be monitored by tutors during each half term.

How will students and parents/carers be informed of the tasks?

- All Independent Learning tasks will be published via our online homework system. Deadlines are also set by individual Subject teachers to meet the needs of the particular class and these deadlines will be written into student planners.
- The student's planner will be the ***definitive record of the tasks set with confirmed deadlines.***

Independent Learning Timetable

Independent Learning tasks are not set to a timetable since they will support the particular lesson in the series to which they relate. In order to support students with time management the Year 7s receive some lessons during their tutor programme to aid them with this. The student's planner will provide a definitive guide as to when the work must be completed. There will be periods where Independent Learning is reduced, for example near to exams. In Year 8 this may mean that preparation for the exams will be the student's priority at those times. Drama, Music, PSHE and PE may set work as and when appropriate to their subject and the syllabus. By Key Stage 4, it is expected that students will have developed Independent Learning skills.

Independent Learning Timetable - Key Stage 4 It is impossible to quantify in absolute terms how much time an individual student in Key Stage 4 should spend on Independent Learning each week as this will vary according to the demands of the examination course and the ability of the student. This is particularly pertinent with the changes to controlled coursework.

- Students are encouraged to learn how to manage their time when working independently by planning to complete their learning tasks at an appropriate time.
- Students will use their Student Planner to make a note of dates by which homework should be completed. It is the student's responsibility to hand work in on time.
- Students will receive their "Show My Homework" user name and password at the beginning of the academic year. This will allow them to access their personalised homework calendar. Students can, however, access their homework on the website without logging-in.

Staff will set Independent Learning tasks according to the guidance above and allow sufficient time for students to complete them.

- Staff should ensure that homework tasks are:
 - (a) Uploaded to the <https://worthinghigh.showmyhomework.co.uk/> website
 - (b) Recorded concisely in a student's Student Planner clearly stating the deadline
- The school will remind parents/carers about the Independent Learning Policy at Subject Review Evenings, in the school newsletter and via the school website.
- Parents/carers will also receive their own "Show My Homework" user name and password at the beginning of the academic year

3. Key Staff Involved:

The Headteacher who will:

ensure the implementation of all aspects of this policy

review this policy according to the agreed schedule

ensure guidelines are available for students and parents/carers on request

The Senior Assistant Headteacher who will:

monitor the work of the AHT responsible for Ethos

The Assistant Headteacher responsible for Ethos and Standards:

ensure teaching staff have opportunities for training and updates

ensure that new teaching staff are given training on how to use the “Show My Homework” website

liaise with the Network Manager to ensure that user names and passwords are created for new students at the beginning of the academic year

liaise with the Network Manager to ensure that user names and passwords are created for new parents/carers at the beginning of the academic year

ensure that user names and passwords are distributed to students at the beginning of the academic year

ensure that user names and passwords are distributed to parents/carers at the beginning of the academic year

ensure that reviews and evaluations of the policy are communicated to staff, students and parents/carers

respond to enquiries from parents/carers

work with Subject Leaders to monitor the provision of homework through the termly Year Group Monitoring Reviews

review the provision of homework in the light of research and parental, staff, student feedback

respond to enquiries from parents/carers and encourage feedback

Subject Leaders who will:

ensure that appropriate, regular homework is set within the department

monitor the quality and quantity of homework within the faculty as part of line management meetings

Subject teachers who will:

set high quality, regular, appropriate homework according to students' needs

check that students have completed homework on time and if necessary, use appropriate school sanctions

set all homework on 'Show my Homework' and ask the student to record it in their planner

contact parents/carers if homework is repeatedly not completed

report to parents/carers on homework through the school reporting and checkpoints calendar

Form tutors who will:

regularly check that students are writing homework details (subject name and completion dates) in their Student Planner

sign student planners once a week

be first point of contact for parental enquiries regarding homework

Next Review - Autumn Term 2020