

**The Academy is committed to excellent Safeguarding**

## **INDEPENDENT LEARNING AND HOMEWORK POLICY**

Policy Date: November 2009    Last updated: September 2018

Date review due: September 2019

Portfolio Group responsible: SIMG

Origin: Deputy Headteacher (P Roberts)



**St. Christopher's**

MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

## **Underlying principles**

All school policies reflect the school values of:

Hope  
Kindness  
Courage  
Integrity  
Trust  
Respect  
Responsibility

Taking into account advice and guidance best practice

Students at The Ilfracombe Academy can expect to receive regular homework. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Academy's Teaching and Learning policy. It has been amended in light of the 2018 results and analysis of the Independent Learning Tracker and GCSEPod usage across 2017-18. It has also been informed by the research from the Education Endowment Foundation which notes that Secondary Homework can add an extra five months progress across an academic year.

## **Purpose of homework**

External research suggests that homework which consolidates and extends students' learning, helps students to make significant progress.

The purpose of setting homework at The Ilfracombe Academy is:

- To promote independent learning, research, enquiry and curiosity
- To prepare for forthcoming lessons
- To consolidate, deepen and extend classroom learning
- To enable students to master and memorise key knowledge of subject-specific skills and content in preparation for school and public examinations.

## **Homework procedures**

- There should be a clear purpose to any homework set. Homework should not be set for the sake of setting homework.
- Homework should be planned as an integral part of learning, promoting learning rather than just completing a task. Schemes of learning should outline homework opportunities.
- Homework should be regular, short, relevant, challenging and manageable.
- Homework should promote knowledge acquisition and retention to be evidenced through the use of regular low stakes testing.
- **Subject teachers are expected to:**
  - communicate the expectation that all homework should be completed

- explain the task and its purpose in class, making sure that there is sufficient time to explain and model what is required
  - use Show My Homework to record homework
  - make materials available for students who do not have access to Show My Homework
  - provide time for students to do the task well and avoid next day homework
  - ensure that the completed task is tested and/or marked to ensure timely and useful feedback
  - address any student misconceptions arising from the homework
  - provide opportunities for students to respond to feedback
  - direct students to opportunities to extend their learning
  - use ClassCharts to notify whether homework has been completed and to a good standard
  - report homework grades at progress points based on accurate information
  - share good practice with colleagues in the setting of homework and use of Show My Homework
  - follow up incomplete or poor quality homework using department and school policies.
- **Tutors are expected to:**
    - promote the value of homework and independent learning
    - follow tutorial plans regarding study skills
    - talk to those students who are raising concerns evident in the Independent Learning Tracker and the homework grades reported at progress points
- **Students are expected to:**
    - take responsibility for their learning
    - ask the teacher if they do not understand the task
    - alert the school of any problem regarding internet access and space to do their homework
    - complete all homework by the set deadlines and to a high standard
    - use and respond to the feedback provided by teachers to improve the quality of their work
    - use the school's facilities if they do not have adequate space at home.

When no formal homework is set for a particular day, students are encouraged to allocate a slot of time to read a book and/or to practise specific subject skills, in particular maths.

### **The role of parents and carers in supporting students**

We recognise the importance of home-school relationships in supporting student achievement. We therefore encourage parents and carers to:

- Provide a suitable place in which students can do their homework
- Explain the value of homework, independent learning and revision
- Take an interest in the student's homework, providing encouragement and praise
- Regularly check Show My Homework and the student planner for homework

- Contact the relevant subject leader, Head of Year or Deputy Head Teacher (Student Outcomes) if there are concerns about the setting of homework or issues regarding internet access.
- Contact the pastoral staff if they have concerns about their child’s welfare.

**Review and evaluation**

We will use the following processes to assure the quality of the homework set:

- Scrutiny of student work
- Lesson observations
- Regular monitoring of Show My Homework, ClassCharts and GCSEPod
- Use of the Independent Learning Tacker for all year groups
- Feedback from staff, students and parents

<b>POLICY HISTORY</b>				
Policy / Version Date	Summary of change	Contact	Implementation Date	Review Date
November 2012	Paul Roberts updated	P Roberts	November 2012	Nov 13
January 2014	Show My Homework added	P Roberts	January 2014	January 2015
July 2017	Paul Roberts updated	P Roberts	September 2017	
September 2017	Further review by SLT	P Roberts	September 2017	September 2018
September 2018	Further review by SLT in light of the focus on metacognition and the use of ClassCharts	P Roberts	September 2018	September 2019