



Cabot
Learning
Federation

Independent Learning (Homework) Policy

Date Approved: June 2025
Approved By: Academy Council

History of most recent Policy changes

Date	Page	Change	Origin of Change e.g. TU request, Change in legislation
September 2022	Whole document		Annual review
June 2025	Whole Document		Annual Review

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Rationale

Well planned and appropriately set homework can play an important role in supporting student learning outside of the classroom, helping students to consolidate prior learning and develop their understanding of the courses studied. Homework is also important to developing independent learning skills vital for success at GCSE.

At Broadoak, homework is referred to as independent study in recognition that this work is completed outside of class time but not necessarily always at home as work may be completed in an after-school club or with the help of a member of staff. Some students may therefore require time, support and an appropriate space to engage in this independent learning.

Evidence* indicates that teacher involvement in homework is key to success and so the following principles should be carefully considered when setting homework:

- Specific and precise work is most likely to make an impact for all learners
- More task-orientated work which can be easily assessed has more impact than activities that require deep learning or problem solving
- Short, frequent homework closely monitored by the teacher is also to lead to better results
- Work that links to current learning and can be discussed or reviewed in following lessons will help increase the relevance of the work for the students
- Consider offering a selection of different activities to provide opportunities to be creative
- Whilst Show My Homework (SMHW) is a useful tool for setting homework, it should be remembered that not all students can easily access and use this platform

*John Hattie 'The Highly Influential Work' cited on Tom Sherrington teacher head.

Aims

- To raise the aspirations of all students.
- To provide opportunities for all students to achieve their potential.
- To develop independent and resilient learners.
- To establish and develop high expectations.
- To show that students' work is valued and success is celebrated.

Students at Broadoak Academy can expect to receive regular **independent study**. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Academy's Teaching and Learning policy.

Independent Study – The logistics

- Independent study **should be planned as an integral part of learning.**
- Independent study should be regular, relevant, challenging and manageable.

- Teachers are expected to:
 - Explain the independent learning activity and its purpose to students in lesson time.
 - Provide a hard copy of the work to privilege those who may not have access to electronic devices at home.
 - Use Show My Homework (SMHW) to publish all independent study including links to Seneca.
 - Ensure that the completed task is acknowledged and/or marked within class time
 - Provide opportunities for students to respond to feedback.
 - Use ClassCharts to reward +3 house points for students who complete independent study
 - Use ClassCharts to keep a record of those who do not complete independent study
 - Set work in line with faculty and academy expectations at both KS3 and KS4.
 - Set work in accordance with the agreed Academy Independent Study timetable.
 - Provide time for students to do the task well and avoid next day deadlines.

- Students are expected to:
 - Take responsibility for their learning.
 - Ask the teacher if they do not understand the task.
 - Ask for help if needed to access SMHW and/or Seneca.
 - Complete all independent study by the set deadlines.
 - Complete all independent study to a high standard.
 - Use and respond to the feedback provided by teachers to improve the quality of their work.

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 independent study where possible.
- Explain the value of independent study.
- Take an interest in the student's independent study, providing encouragement and praise.
- Regularly check Show My Homework and Seneca for independent study.
- Contact the relevant Head of Faculty or House Leader if there are concerns about the setting of independent study.

Review and evaluation

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

- Scrutiny of student work.
- Lesson observations.
- Review of data on ClassCharts
- Feedback from staff, students and parents.

Expectations for Independent Study

Guidelines for the amount of homework students can expect to receive during their time at Broadoak are outlined below:

Key Stage	Core subjects (English, Maths, Science)	Additional subjects
KS3 (Years 7-9)	Once per week	Twice a term
KS4 (Years 10-11)	Once per week	Once per week

Independent Study will focus on securing foundational knowledge with additional opportunities to extend learning through extension activities.

Please note, no independent study will be set in PSHE and core PE.

For further information please follow the link to the [relevant Broadoak Academy webpage](#)