



032 Independent Learning Policy

Independent learning is work that is set for students to complete outside of their timetabled lessons; usually containing an element of independent study, because it is not usually supervised by the teacher. It is an important element in raising student achievement and developing independent study skills.

Independent learning can be completed using school resources where these are not available at home.

Aims

Independent learning should enable students to:

- Consolidate the work that has been covered in normal lesson time or prepare for future learning.
- Enhance their knowledge and skills in a particular subject or topic.
- Develop independent learning and research skills.
- Experience working to meet deadlines.
- Access resources that may not be available in the classroom.
- Engage parental cooperation and support.
- Have opportunities to complete pieces of extended writing.

Key responsibilities

Students will:

- Record all independent learning neatly in their planners, including the task and deadline.
- Spend the appropriate amount of time completing each piece of independent learning.
- Take pride in their independent learning, completing it to the same standard as a piece of classwork.
- Take their subject books home and complete independent learning in them whenever possible.
- Attempt all independent learning to the best of their ability.
- Speak to their teacher if they are having difficulty completing a piece of independent learning.

Form tutors will:

- Check students' planners at the end of each school day to ensure they are writing down independent learning correctly (**please see appendix 3 for guidance**).
- Check that planners are being checked and signed by parents.
- Speak to subject teachers if there are any issues, such as too little or too much independent learning being set.

Heads of House will:

- Carry out planner scrutinies for their House in accordance with the school quality assurance schedule.
- Support form tutors in their day to day monitoring of planners and independent learning.
- Assist form tutors with their support of students not currently adhering to the school's Independent learning policy.

Teachers will:



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- Set independent learning that is linked to the scheme of work currently being followed by students.
- Differentiate independent learning so that all students, including EAL, SEND and AGT students are appropriately challenged.
- Set an appropriate amount of independent learning, in accordance with the school guidelines **(please see appendix 2 for guidance)**.
- Make sure that independent learning is explained clearly and that a realistic deadline is set.
- Acknowledge the completion of each piece of independent learning and mark completed independent learning in line with the school marking policy.
- Provide help and support to students with the completion of independent learning.
- Use the School behaviour policy to reward and sanction students as appropriate for the quality or completion of their independent learning.
- Liaise with their Head of Faculty, form tutors or Head of House when problems arise.

The Learning Resource Centre manager will:

- Provide opportunities for students to complete independent learning during lunch time or after school.

Heads of Faculty will:

- Scrutinise the quality and quantity of independent learning as part of the quality assurance process (book scrutinies).
- Ensure that the school's independent learning policy is effectively implemented within their faculties.
- Ensure that exemplar independent learning resources are available to teachers on the shared drive.
- Provide students across the Key Stages with resources such as Independent learning booklets.
- Ensure that all schemes of work include information on independent learning.

Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum) / Head of Faculty with responsibility for Independent learning will:

- Provide staff, students and parents with the necessary independent learning documentation.
- Develop classroom practice to enhance independent learning across the school.
- Carry out termly book scrutinies and planner checks focussing on the quality of independent learning.
- Review annually the school independent learning policy.
- Liaise with Heads of Faculty to raise attainment through independent learning across all Key Stages
- Provide regular feedback on quality of independent learning within the Faculty area, sharing effective practice through Faculty Planning and Development sessions.

Parents will:

- Provide a quiet place to work at home.
- Encourage independent learning to be completed at a set time each day.
- Check that an appropriate amount of time is being spent on independent learning.
- Ensure that outside clubs, hobbies and interests are not preventing students spending adequate time on their independent learning.
- Check that independent learning is being presented to a high standard.
- Check and sign their child's planner each week.



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- Provide the school with any information about any problems by writing in the planner or contacting the school directly.

This policy operates in accordance with the schools published Equality Policy.

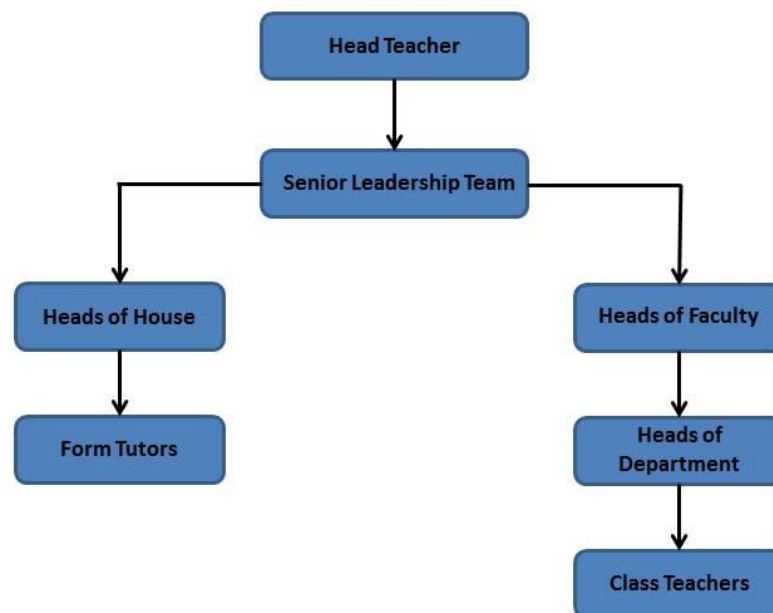
Reviewed by: Governing Body

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Date of next review: October 2023

Appendix 1

Monitoring





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Appendix 2 - Homework Quantities

At Moseley School and Sixth Form, we have a fixed timetable with time allocated on specific days for specific subjects. This is to enable teachers to use their professional judgement to plan relevant, meaningful homework tasks, that are integral to learning, at the appropriate times. The amount of time spent on each homework task is flexible, but guidelines are set out below.

Year 7 & 8	Week 1
Monday	English Languages
Tuesday	Maths Technology (Food)
Wednesday	Science Music
Thursday	Geography RE
Friday	History Personal development

Year 7 & 8	Week 2
Monday	English Computing
Tuesday	Maths Technology (DT)
Wednesday	Science Art
Thursday	Geography RE
Friday	History Drama



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Year 9, 10, 11	Week 1
Monday	English Option Z
Tuesday	Maths Option Y
Wednesday	Science Independent revision
Thursday	Geography/History RE
Friday	Personal development Maths

Year 9, 10 and 11	Week 2
Monday	English Option Z
Tuesday	Maths Option Y
Wednesday	Science Independent revision
Thursday	Geography/History RE
Friday	English Science

Year 7 and 8: 5 hours per week

Year 9, 10 and 11: 7.5 hours per week (with the expectation of more independent revision as students go through the GCSE course)

Sixth form: 4 hours per subject per week of independent study



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Appendix 3

HOMEWORK Using your planner effectively

It is your responsibility to use your planner to record all homework you are set.

You should do the following every school day:

- Record any homework that is set next to the subject, including the due date.
- Tick the 'done' box, to show that you have completed the homework task.

The image shows a spiral-bound homework planner with handwritten entries. The entries are:

Subject	Task	Due Date	Done
Maths	Algebra worksheet	17/9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
English	Evasive poem	14/9	<input type="checkbox"/>
D.T	4 MP3 player designs	24/9	<input type="checkbox"/>

Arrows point from text boxes to specific parts of the planner:

- Record the lessons that set homework each day. (Points to the subject column)
- Record all homework that is set. (Points to the task column)
- Your planner should be signed weekly by you, your parent / carer and form tutor. (Points to the signature lines)
- Parents can communicate with your form tutor about homework, using this space. (Points to the 'Parent / Carer & Teacher Comments / Other Activities' section)
- Record the date the homework must be handed in. (Points to the due date column)
- Tick the 'done' box when you have completed the homework. (Points to the 'done' checkbox)

- You need to show your planner to your parent / carer every week.
- Your parent / carer needs to sign your planner every week – they can also make a brief comment, such as requesting additional homework for you.
- Each week, you should have a brief discussion with your tutor about the amount and quality of homework you are receiving – you both then need to sign your planner.