



WOLSTANTON HIGH SCHOOL INDEPENDENT LEARNING POLICY

This policy is reviewed on a regular basis by the school's Leadership Team and Academy Council-Education and Standards committee (ESC). Upon each review of the policy, the Leadership Team, line managers and the ESC must ensure that any impact of the provisions of this policy on staff work/life balance and wellbeing is considered and taken into account and, where appropriate, the provisions are amended in light of those considerations

Adopted by ESC: (Date)

1. Introduction

At Wolstanton High School, we recognise the importance of independent learning in helping pupils to consolidate their learning, maximise their progress and achieve their potential. Opportunities to learn independently, as well as helping pupils to become active learners, promote an enthusiasm for learning and raise standards.

Subjects are expected to set independent learning tasks without exception. This work should be challenging, meaningful and linked explicitly to each subject's learning aims.

Success at Key Stage 3 and 4 will be influenced by the effective independent study habits students develop, particularly in relation to homework and this policy aims to use independent learning to develop students' independence from the time they arrive at Wolstanton High School. Quality independent learning is recognised by the Education Endowment Foundation (EFF) as having a positive effect on learning, particularly when children are set planned and focused activities that are linked to learning in class.

2. The Independent Wolstanton Learner

An independent Wolstanton learner can be identified as:

- Passionate about their learning and their own development
- Knows how to learn
- Can manage themselves

We want our pupils at Wolstanton to become lifelong learners that are ready to grasp any opportunities available to them and take control of their future.

Underpinning this work is the idea of growth mindset. This being that intelligence is not fixed and can grow through harder and smarter working.



3. Why is independent learning important?

At Wolstanton we are committed to developing a learner's confidence so they are able to tackle challenging work and find ways to overcome difficulties independently.

Regular setting of meaningful independent learning enables pupils to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in lesson and prepare for new learning activities
- Access resources not available in the classroom
- Develop research skills
- Develop independent working skills essential for academic success at all levels
- Extend knowledge through further research and additional reading
- Show progress and understanding
- Take on responsibility for their learning and management of time
- Engage parental co-operation and support
- Experience success

4. Examples of independent learning

Independent learning tasks should be varied and give pupils the opportunity to reinforce concepts learned in the classroom; explore and investigate topics in more depth; extend learning to enrich the understanding of key concepts or complete assessment tasks. The purpose of independent learning is not to finish work left incomplete during lesson time.

- Reading, writing and extended writing activities
- Research
- Practising and applying skills that have been developed during lesson
- Answering examination questions
- Drafting work
- Learning new content in preparation for a future lesson
- Reinforcing, reviewing or consolidating information
- Revision for a forthcoming assessment
- Online revision resources

Any of these tasks could be set to underpin the relevant learning aims and where possible, should be differentiated to ensure a degree of challenge for all pupils. In addition, pupils may be given a choice of task from a 'independent learning menu'.



Where project tasks are set, students should allocate sufficient time to complete the work over several weeks.

5. Frequency, duration and recording of independent learning

The school does not publish a prescriptive timetable, subject leaders will have identified independent learning tasks through their schemes of learning. Pupils will be given reasonable deadlines by their teachers to complete independent learning tasks and pupils should develop their organisational skills by ensuring they meet the deadlines.

Subject areas will ensure that all tasks and links are available on Insight to ensure that all independent learning can be accessed by teachers, pupils and parents. Teaching staff will ensure that all students are equipped with the necessary resources and skills to successfully complete tasks.

6. Expectations

All pupils are expected to complete their independent learning. Merits are awarded for successful completion and de-merits for failing to do so. If this becomes a regular occurrence, then our amber and re-store sessions will be used accordingly.