

Seaford Head School

Achieving Excellence Together



Independent Study Policy

Governors Committee Responsible for the Policy:	Non-Statutory
Date Approved:	July 2021
Recommended Review Period:	Two Years
Date for Review:	July 2023
Leadership Team Role Responsible for the Operation of the Policy:	Assistant Headteacher: i/c Teaching & Learning

At Seaford Head School we believe that Independent Study plays an important role in ensuring that every child achieves the very best that they can. It helps to develop students as independent learners, while inspiring a love of learning and providing opportunities to deepen their knowledge of the curriculum, at all key stages. Independent study also provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate our core values of working hard, displaying a can-do attitude and making positive contributions.

The most effective Independent Study tasks which allow students to actively engage with subject content or provide the opportunity for them to practise skills that have been focussed on in lessons. This provides students with the best possible opportunity to improve and deepen their knowledge of the curriculum. Independent Study should inspire and challenge every student, to make excellent progress.

Aims

- To raise standards of achievement across the school
- To assist students in understanding the content and developing their skills within each subject.
- To provide opportunities for students to creatively engage with the curriculum.
- To support students in developing their revision skills
- To give students the opportunity to work independently
 - To encourage parents to become involved in their child's learning and assist parents in monitoring their child's independent study

Change to Independent Study Policy (formerly Homework Policy): Rationale for Change

- To reflect changes made as a result of the recent review of the curriculum carried out by senior and middle leaders
- To encompass changes to the delivery of subjects as a result of the closure of the school during Lockdowns.

How often is Independent Study set?

Key Stage 3

Subject	Independent study
English	1 Independent Study task a week
Mathematics	1 Independent Study task a week
Science	1 Independent Study task a week
Languages	1 Independent Study task a week
Geography	1 Independent Study task a fortnight
History	1 Independent Study task a fortnight
Art	1 Independent Study task a fortnight

Termly projects set in Drama, Design Technology, Food Technology, Music, Ethics and Computer Science.

Key Stage 4

Subject	Independent Study Task
English	1 Independent Study task a week
Mathematics	1 Independent Study task a week
Science	1 Independent Study task a week
MFL	1 Independent Study task a week
Options	1 Independent Study task a fortnight
Ethics	1 Independent Study task a fortnight

Key Stage 5

- Independent Study Tasks will be set weekly for all examination courses/subjects.
- This should be a mixture of exam practice, other written work and pre- and post-lesson reading.
- In addition to completing the work set by their teachers each week students in the Sixth Form will be expected to work on their subjects independently. This might consist of ongoing revision activities, independent further research into areas covered in class, exam preparation or reading ahead to enhance their understanding in future lessons. The most successful students are those who make effective use of their time outside lessons for independent learning. Students will be expected to plan which subjects they will do work for in their study lessons.

Types of Independent Study Tasks that may be set

Type of Independent Study Task	What Students Do
Testing knowledge of the curriculum	Students may complete short knowledge tests on online platforms such as Memorise, History homework, Microsoft Forms or Seneca Learning,
Practising skills needed for the curriculum	Students may practise skills they need for the curriculum on online platforms such as Hegarty Maths or Bedrock
Creative engagement with the curriculum	Students may complete activities that allow them to engage creatively with the curriculum, such as the Year 7 Castles project exhibition.
Developing knowledge of the curriculum	Students may engage with academic media that deepens their understanding of the curriculum such as, at Key Stage 4 / 5 using Massolit lectures or engage with current developments in subjects.
Exam practice	Students may complete extended answers at Key Stage 3 or practise exam questions at Key Stage 4 and 5 on online platforms such as Everlearn and Dr Frost's Maths
Revision	In the 2 weeks before their year group exams, students should spend time revising for these. No other homework will be set during this time.

Recording Independent Study Tasks

- Teachers will set all Independent Study Tasks on Assignments in Microsoft Teams
- Students will be able to see what homeworks they have been set across all subjects, by clicking on the assignments tab in Microsoft Teams.
- Parents will receive a weekly email summary of Independent Study Tasks that has been set for their child on Microsoft Teams
- A realistic deadline date should be set – at least 2 days should be allowed between the setting and handing in of Independent Study Tasks.
- Only revision Independent Study Tasks should be set 2 weeks before year group exams. These are available on the school calendar
- Students are able to complete Independent study tasks, before they are due to be handed in, in the new Learning Hub or the 2 Learning Resource Centres one each site, before or after school.

Responsibilities

The role of the leadership team:

- Monitor the policy through the quality assurance process
- Review and evaluate the Independent Study Policy
- Ensure that parents are informed of our expectations regarding homework.

The role of the Head of Department / Director of Learning:

- Develop a departmental approach to Independent Study Tasks that ensures that tasks set are linked to the curriculum and that a variety of tasks are set throughout the year.
- Support teachers with incomplete Independent Study Tasks, liaising with students and parents, as applicable
- Review the quality of Independent Study Tasks set

The role of the teacher:

- Plan and set regular Independent Study Tasks on Teams that is linked to the curriculum
- Provide a clear explanation of Independent Study Tasks to students
- Set homework that is appropriate for students of all abilities and provide differentiated tasks to allow students to be able complete the work independently
- Monitor the completion and quality of Independent Study Tasks
- Communicate with parents if there is a problem with Independent Study Tasks and set 60 minute after school detentions for students whose Independent Study Tasks is not completed or is not at the required standard (see Behaviour Policy). Students will complete the Independent Study Tasks in the detention, wherever possible.
- Students should be recognised for working hard at Independent study tasks and house points awarded to them who have worked to best of their ability

The role of parents/carers:

- Provide suitable conditions and support for their child in completing Independent Study Tasks
- Inform teachers of any issues regarding Independent Study Tasks and work with the school to find a solution

The role of students:

- Regularly check the Assignments page in Teams for Independent Study Tasks that have been set
- Complete all Independent Study Tasks on time and to the best of their ability. Students should upload Independent Study Tasks completed to the assignment in Teams where it is appropriate.
- Ensure they understand tasks and seek clarification if needed, prior to the Independent Study Tasks being handed in.