

## Home Learning Policy

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Review cycle/date:	Every 2 years, May 2019
Party responsible:	Student Committee
Linked policies:	Curriculum Policy

### Home learning

Home learning is a fundamental skill. It provides experiences of working independently, where students plan their own time and are self-reliant. It also equips them for exam preparation, further and higher education and the world of work.

There are three main aspects of home learning:

- Consolidation of class-work (e.g. complete maths questions based on what was learnt in class)
- Preparation for future learning (e.g. find out three facts about a topic before learning about it more fully in class)
- Independent project (e.g. create an app)

Students will be set home learning tasks every day. Some tasks will be quite short, like learning vocab, some will be extended project work. Everyone works at a different pace. We just ask that students do their best.

We encourage parents to be actively involved with home learning. However, it is not the parents' work. Instead parents should draw answers from their son/daughter by using open questioning. If you both don't know – you can learn together! There are many resources on the internet and over time we will build a bank of resources on our virtual learning environment.

### Rationale

Home Learning at The Swanage School is relevant, meaningful and integrated into the learning and progress of all students. It extends study and provides opportunities for life skills, self discipline and individual responsibility to be developed. All students within the school are expected to complete Home Learning tasks daily through term time. These tasks are not an 'extra' but an integral part of the students' learning journeys. The curriculum and Home Learning timetable assume the completion of Home Learning by all students, to the best of their ability. Home Learning is a vital means of consolidating the learning process and of developing good study habits and skills. Home Learning is a vital component of the development of independent learners.

The conscientious completion of Home Learning on a regular basis throughout years 7–11 gradually builds up both student confidence and competence in tackling examination/course requirements and achieving individual potential. Home Learning should offer students the opportunity to research, through a variety of sources, including the use of technology and the media, alongside the more traditional sources.

## **Purpose**

- To provide a clear learning entitlement for all students that develops a thirst for learning
- To enhance home-school partnership
- To build increasing student involvement in their own study programme beyond the classroom
- To develop research skills and an understanding of the appropriateness of a variety of sources
- To develop skills of time management and organisation
- To build and develop academic commitment
- To provide the opportunity to use, consolidate, and revise the skills and knowledge content of school work
- To develop the independent learner
- To develop student confidence, motivation and self-awareness

## **Guidelines**

- At the start of each school year, all parents receive a parent information pack which explains the nature and approach of Home Learning at The Swanage School
- Members of staff have the responsibility of implementing the school's Home Learning policy and of emphasising to their students the important part Home Learning plays in their overall progress
- Staff will be expected to ensure that all students clearly understand the task set and the date/time by which it is due for submission. Students will note the Home Learning in their Planner
- A wide variety of Home Learning Tasks can be expected depending on the nature of the subject and the type of work and content being covered
- The amount of work set will vary according to the age and ability of the student and the nature of the subject. Students are expected to spend the following amount of time on home learning:
  - Years 7 & 8                      up to 45 minutes per day
  - Year 9                                1.5 hours per day
  - Years 10 and 11                2 hours per day
- In subjects which are predominantly practical in nature, and which often rely on specialist facilities and resources, Home Learning will be set as appropriate to the project work/assignments in which the student is involved
- The setting of Home Learning will be monitored regularly
- The school will provide space and facilities to enable students to do Home Learning at the school where it is difficult to study at home

## **Conclusion**

Our Home Learning policy reinforces the central principle of classroom learning in the progress of each student towards achieving their full potential, alongside the development of the independent learner. The work ethos and a passion for learning are at its core.

## **Monitoring, evaluation and review**

### **Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation**

The effectiveness of the Home Learning Policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed both day to day and more strategically:

- I. On-going monitoring:

- Sampling students' planners
- Sampling of students' work
- Informal feedback from students
- Discussions between members of staff
- Informal feedback from parents
- Student progress in lessons

2. Strategic monitoring and evaluation:

- Audit of student home learning to be carried out annually
- Analysis of student summative assessment data, termly
- Written and oral feedback from students, annually
- Review of The School and Departmental Development Plans, annually

The Governing Body will review the Home Learning Policy every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness.