

Home Learning Policy

Date approved:	03 July 2019
Review cycle/date:	Every 2 years
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 and self-disciplined. It also equips them for exam preparation, further and higher education and the world of work.

There are four 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. researching a subject, watching TED Talks)
- Revision of skills and previously taught knowledge (e.g. including three linguistic devices in the opening paragraph of a letter)
- Independent project (e.g. create an app.)

Students will be set home learning tasks every day. Many tasks will be short and designed to consolidate learning and embed key skills and knowledge. Everyone works at a different pace. We just ask that students do their best.

We will ensure that Show My Homework provides supporting material and advice for students. We also 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 also 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. These tasks are not an 'extra' but an integral part of the students' learning journey; we have pre-planned many tasks, across the key stages, in response to the knowledge and skill demands of the GCSEs. Home learning tasks also respond to identified targets.

The conscientious completion of home learning on a regular basis throughout years 7–11 gradually builds up student confidence and competence in tackling examination/course requirements and achieving individual potential.

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 and are expected to check Show My Homework every day
- 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.
- 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

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
 - Monitoring Show My Homework
 - 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 half termly
- 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.