

# Home Learning Policy

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At Waldegrave School, we consider home learning to be an integral part of the curriculum and a valued part of a balanced education. Home learning is work completed at home to extend or consolidate classroom learning. It is our aim to ensure that students have frequent opportunities to develop and consolidate their competencies as independent learners.

## 1. The purpose of home learning is to:

- Encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline for independent work, an essential skill for adult life.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding.
- Enable students to devote time to particular demands such as GCSE / A level assessments or project work.
- Consolidate work covered in lessons or prepare for new learning activities.
- Develop research skills.
- Provide challenge with the opportunity to get things wrong and learn from this.
- Show progress and understanding.
- Enhance study skills e.g. planning, time management and self discipline.
- Take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Promote parental engagement and support.

## 2. The role of students:

- Use Google Classroom to monitor home learning assignments and ensure that they are marked as complete once they have been.
- Access online home learning tasks that are set by staff through Google Classroom.
- Complete home learning to the best of their ability.
- Ensure that deadlines are kept.
- If students are absent, they need to actively find out via Google classroom what home learning has been missed and catch up on it.
- Inform the subject teacher of any difficulties in advance of the deadline where possible and seek support as appropriate.

## 3. The role of staff:

- Set home learning according to department guidelines.
- Use Google Classroom to communicate ALL home learning tasks to students.
- Unless there is good reason in terms of supporting learning, adhere to the timing guidelines for each key stage.
- Consider the needs of individuals when setting home learning tasks.
- Give full and comprehensive instructions.
- Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- Take into account any assessments in the school calendar when setting home learning to ensure student well-being.

- Provide feedback in accordance with the whole school feedback and review policy (as appropriate) and acknowledge all home learning in some way.
- Provide help and support if required.
- Inform the Head of department, Tutor and Head of Year, as appropriate, when problems arise.
- Contact parents to discuss the concerns regarding the quality and/or frequency of completion and/or meeting of deadlines.

**4. What Parents/Carers can do to help:**

- Provide a quiet place to work for the student.
- If parents / carers have any concerns about home learning, including the impact of the amount of home learning set on student wellbeing, they should contact the class teacher in the first instance in regard to an individual subject or the form tutor regarding more general concerns.
- Check their child's Google Classrooms each week to see the tasks set for their child and the deadlines.
- Encourage their child to discuss their home learning and care about the effort put in and quality of home learning achieved.

**5. Sanctions and rewards for home learning:**

- Staff will follow the school behaviour policy in relation to sanctions for failure to complete home learning, these will be recorded on SIMS.
- Overtime will be set in the Sixth Form for missed deadlines including independent learning tasks.
- Staff will award E-praise points in recognition of home learning that has been completed with care, effort and to a high standard, in line with the rewards policy.

**6. Individual Needs and SEN**

Some students may have their home learning adapted by amount, task, or outcome. Rewards and sanctions will still apply but individual needs are taken into account. Parents are encouraged to work with the school and may contact teachers or the Inclusion Department with specific concerns.

**7. General Protocols for setting Home learning via Google**

- Each subject will be separated into Topics within the Google classroom.
- Home learning set will be organised within this topic and will be clearly labelled in sequence to support students with organisation.
- All home learning to be set on Google classroom via Assignment.
- Assignments should include clear instructions on how to complete the task, access to any resources that might support students completing the task or links to websites that can help.
- A deadline for completion - should be a minimum of 3 school days although there may be occasions when this is shorter in order to support progress of learning.

**8. Key Stage 3 and 4**

Students in KS3 will be given a home learning timetable each year which will state the frequency and approximate days of home learning in each subject. It will be made clear on the timetable that specified days are a guideline only and that these may change to take into account learning needs or missed lessons.

It is not possible to have timetables at KS4 as each student follows an individual timetable.

Students in KS4 are expected to plan to do 2 hours of study per day including home learning assignments set by subject teachers with specified deadlines and revision activities to prepare for GCSE examinations.

In addition to set home learning tasks, students should be encouraged to visit revision sites such as BBC Bitesize, My Maths, Kerboodle, and GCSE Pod where there are a wealth of resources available to support their learning. We will encourage reading each week to develop literacy skills in all students.

**9. Protocols for KS3 Home learning**

- All home learning to be set on Google Classroom via Assignment.
- Assignments should include clear instructions on how to complete the task, access to any resources that might support students completing the task or links to websites that can help.
- A deadline for completion - should be a minimum of 3 school days although there may be occasions when this is shorter in order to support progress of learning.
- Tasks for KS3 students should take no more than 20-30 minutes to complete for all students. Where tasks are project based, students should have a clear understanding of the time expectations and should not be sanctioned for working within those time limits.
- Home learning may be adapted in the same way for students as staff would for lessons.
- Home learning should only be set when it is appropriate to do so. There may be occasions where home learning is not set.

**10. Protocols for KS4 Home learning**

- Staff should follow the same protocols used for KS3 at KS4 in relation to setting home learning.
- All home learning to be set on Google classroom via Assignment.
- Assignments should include clear instructions on how to complete the task, access to any resources that might support students completing the task or links to websites that can help.
- A deadline for completion - should be a minimum of 3 school days although there may be occasions when this is shorter in order to support progress of learning.
- Staff can ask students to attend an after school session (e.g. Music/Art/DT session, PE extra-curricular practice) as a home learning task.
- Tasks for KS4 students should take no more than 30-45 minutes to complete for all students.
- Home learning may be adapted in the same way for students as staff would for lessons.
- Staff should consider tasks that enrich student learning of a topic or that can help develop independent study or revision skills.

**11. Key Stage 5**

Sixth form students will be expected to complete between four to five hours of independent learning per subject every week. This may include home learning assignments set by subject teachers with specified deadlines. However, the expectation is that students at Key Stage 5 will go beyond this, with independent learning also including additional tasks identified and completed by students using their own initiative. The specific nature of these tasks will vary from one subject to another, but will typically include the following:

<b>Prepare</b>	Get ready for your lessons by pre-reading around the next topic, either from a revision guide, the textbook or other relevant sources of information.
<b>Consolidate</b>	Reinforce your learning from lessons by finishing off any incomplete tasks, reading back through your notes and highlighting the key information you've written down.
<b>Practice</b>	Apply what you have covered in lessons by practicing exam style questions. This might mean searching for lots of questions on a particular topic, completing past papers or planning out essays.
<b>Revise</b>	Try to revise as you go throughout the year by writing summary notes of the topics you have done that week, quizzing yourself, explaining concepts to others or doing exam questions.

Students may complete these independent learning tasks in their work periods during the school day. Alternatively, they may choose to carry out the work in the evenings or at the weekend. The school site is open to students at Key Stage beyond the limits of the conventional school day to support them in this endeavour. Students may ask permission from the relevant staff if they would like to use specialist facilities, such as Art or Music rooms, outside of their timetabled lessons.

On occasion, subject teachers may require students to complete independent learning tasks at specific times on the school site, potentially under supervision. For example, a student may be placed in Overtime if they have work to catch up on or have not met deadlines set previously.