

Independent Learning Policy

Secondary School

Policy Statement

My Online Schooling recognises the vital role that independent learning plays in a pupil's overall learning experience.

We use the phrase 'Independent Learning' instead of 'homework' intentionally to emphasise that these activities are essential to success in My Online Schooling courses. Independent learning activities are designed for pupils to practise, strengthen, and apply the skills that are developed during lessons.

It is important that there is consistency across the school to ensure teacher and pupil expectations are clear. Effective independent learning involves well-designed assignments that engage and challenge pupils. Pupils are supported by high quality teaching and learning in live lessons and accessible recordings. Accordingly, this policy should not be seen in isolation, but as part of the larger teaching and learning strategy at My Online Schooling.

Assignment Standards

The quality of a pupil's success with independent learning is dependent on the quality of the assignment itself. It is the primary responsibility of the class teacher, but ultimately the school's senior leadership to ensure that independent learning assignments meet the standards outlined below.

Independent Learning assignments should be:

- Meaningful, purposeful, and engaging
- Appropriate for the level of the subject being studied
- Linked to the curriculum and achievable independently
- Planned with care and consideration to the learning objectives of the course
- Assigned regularly
 - Teachers should aim for pupils to have 1 assignment per class every week; however, this is a general guideline and may vary.
- Conscious of pupil's time. Teachers should aim for assignments to be completed in:
 - KS3: approximately 45 minutes
 - KS4/iGCSEs: approximately 1 hour
 - KS5/A Levels: approximately 1.5 hours

Roles in the School Community

Teachers

- Develop and assign activities aligned with the standards listed above
- Upload assignments to Canvas in a timely manner
 - Where possible, it is best to upload assignments before the start of the school day
- If required, deliver substantive feedback to pupils in a timely manner
 - Ideally feedback should be given to pupils within 1 week of the assignment due date, however, this is dependent on the nature of the task
- Feedback should be easily accessible for pupils and parents
- Ensure pupils have access to resources (e.g. classroom recordings) so they are able to complete assignments independently
- Monitor completion of independent learning assignments with the intention of incorporating this into reports

Pupils

- Do your best with each piece of work
- Complete your learning assignment and hand it in on Canvas on time
 - Typically, assignments will be due 1 week after the work is assigned, however, this is dependent on the nature of the task
- Before you ask for help if you find the independent learning task too difficult, consider the three Bs -- Brain, Book, Buddy
- Use recorded lessons or resources provided by your teacher to complete your independent learning assignment
- If you know that you will be submitting your independent learning assignment late, you should message your teacher on Canvas to let them know

Parents & Carers

- Utilise the Parent Portal and Canvas regularly to monitor your child's progress and assignments
- Support your child by helping them to plan and manage their time wisely
- Help your child establish a routine, setting aside time for independent learning tasks to be completed and ensuring that it is seen as a priority
- Offer encouragement, help and advice to your child without completing the assignment for them
- Encourage your child to meet deadlines

Exemptions

At My Online Schooling we understand and appreciate that pupils may experience anxiety, stress and mental health challenges which can make completing independent learning assignments difficult. While completing all independent learning assignments is recommended to have a high quality, balanced education, we want to ensure we are supporting all pupils who may struggle to complete assignments.

If a pupil requires an independent learning exemption for a significant period of time i.e. a month or term, their parent/carer can submit an exemption application on the Parent Portal. This will be reviewed and accepted by the Education Team and Health and Wellbeing Team, and the pupil's teachers will be notified.

By not completing Independent Learning, families understand that the pupil's teachers may not be able to assess their progress and the pupil may not cover some topics at the same level of depth as pupils who are completing independent learning.

Possible Implications of Non-completion

Independent learning is a crucial part of the My Online Schooling learning experience. Not completing assignments will have a negative impact on the quality of a pupil's education. For this reason, we will implement the following actions for incomplete assignments:

- Consistently not completing independent learning assignments will impact negatively on a pupil's effort and homework grades, and may negatively impact a pupil's attainment grade
- Parents will be notified in a supportive capacity of consistent unsubmitted assignments

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- END OF POLICY -