



## Isca Academy

### Homework Policy

#### **Definition**

Homework is the provision of appropriate tasks/work that is given to students to undertake outside of the classroom in order to further enhance their learning. Homework is an essential part of the teaching and learning process and supports students' progress. Homework is significant because it teaches responsibility and helps students develop good study habits. In addition, homework can help to reinforce learning from within lessons, stretch and challenge student's knowledge gains and helps prepare students for their future learning.

#### **The Rationale for Home Learning**

- To extend and stretch learning outside of the school day
- To support all students to develop the skills, confidence and motivation to support their learning
- To supporting and enhance the consolidation of knowledge, skills and understanding gained from lessons
- To develop effective study habits, ownership and responsibility for independent learning
- To engage parental co-operation and support in students learning

#### **The Policy Aims:**

- To provide a coherent structure for work taking place after school hours
- To support students by enabling them to prepare effectively for their lessons, examinations and other assessment activities, both internal and external
- To extend and develop learning and knowledge gain that has started within lessons
- To differentiate learning according to students' ability
- To support students in planning and organising time developing greater self-discipline
- To develop positive study habits
- To make home learning an explicit and important part of the learning experience
- To encourage parents to become involved in their children's school work
- To provide all students with the opportunity to develop their independent learning skills
- To allow preparation for future learning/class work
- To contribute to students making rapid progress in their learning

#### **Types of homework**

There are many different types of homework, all of which will be purposeful, quality, varied and enhance learning gains. These will include:

- Planned tasks/preparation (pre learning) for class work - tasks may be planned at the beginning of the year or term as an integral aspect of class work
- Project style work – with clear structure
- Research based tasks
- Self-contained work - a discrete piece of work running parallel to class work.
- Completion and extension, homework consists of completing and extending work which has begun in the classroom
- Study of material already taught in class for the purposes of consolidation and in preparation for assessment/examination/controlled assessment
- Reading – independently or directed to support literacy development

### **Setting Guidelines**

Year 7 & 8

- Core(Ma, En & Sci): a minimum of 30 minutes per week
- All other subjects: a minimum of 30 minutes every 2 weeks

Year 9,10 & 11

- Core(Ma, En & Sci): a minimum of 1 hour per week
- All other subjects: a minimum of 1 hour every 2 weeks

### **Key stage 3**

- Subject teachers of core subjects Maths, English and Science will normally set homework tasks every week.
- In other subjects, homework tasks will be set on a fortnightly basis as identified by each teacher.
- The work should be related to lesson content and should extend students' knowledge, understanding and /or their skills. Alternatively, homework tasks could also prepare students for a forthcoming lesson. There may be occasions when it is not appropriate to set homework tasks. When this is the case, students should be told why it is not being set.
- It is important that students are given a clear deadline for the completion of the task. This may vary. Some departments may wish to set longer pieces of work which will require students to be well organised and which will require carefully structured frameworks.

### **Key stage 4**

Where coursework/controlled assessment preparation is part of a GCSE it will frequently need to be completed partly at home, as such it will be a core part of the homework programme. This should be made clear to all students.

New GCSE specifications mean there is less coursework in several subjects and none at all in others. Similarly, new GCSE specifications also place greater emphasis on Controlled Assessment Tasks and terminal examinations. This will potentially change the nature of some homework as students will need to prepare for assignments or revise for examinations. In

Years 9,10 and 11 all students should be set homework regularly in every subject. In the core subjects at least once a week and option subjects once a fortnight.

## Sanctions

We place a great emphasis on the completion of **all** homework. Therefore, failure to do so will result in the following sanctions:

Failure to submit homework on time (first offence)	→	Re-submission date issued to student
Failure to submit homework on re-submission date	→	Break time detention where work will be completed
Failure to attend break time detention and/or complete work	→	One hour after school detention where outstanding homework will be completed

All sanctions will take place on a Tuesday, every week.

## Isca Academy recommendations for Homework

*The government recommendations were scrapped for this in March 2012.*

We recommend that teachers set some recommendations of timing against individual home learning tasks.

## Roles and Responsibilities

### Role of the Class Teacher

#### Teacher Standards expectations – 4.3

#### Plan and teach well-structured lessons-

*Set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired.*

*All Teachers should ensure that;*

- Work is set and marked regularly in according with the Academy marking policy
- A record of the homework tasks they set for each class are recorded on ClassCharts to be made available to students and parents
- Students are aware that all homework should be dated and labelled in books/files or portfolio's
- Students are all aware of how homework is relevant to the topic/unit being studied and how it will be assessed (*Homework is never set for the sake of it.*)
- Students are aware of what is required and expectations of what should be produced
- Students are aware of how long they have to complete the task and a guide to how long it should take
- Follow up with appropriate support where students do not complete set homework in accordance with the sanction process

### Role of the Head of Department

- It is a key part of the role of subject leader to make sure that appropriate homework is set as outlined above through the Academy teaching and learning quality assurance procedures

- Support the class teacher where appropriate to celebrate and support students to complete homework
- Discussing homework at meetings and monitoring its setting, feedback and impact
- Monitoring the frequency and consistency of homework across the department

### **Role of Form Tutor**

Supported by heads of year to ensure that students overall homework load is appropriate.

### **Role of the Head of Year**

Monitor students' completion of homework across all subjects

### **Role of the Parents/Carers**

- Check ClassCharts weekly and ensure all homework is complete
- Ensure there is a quiet space where their child can complete homework
- Support and encourage their child to establish a homework routine so that deadlines are met
- Inform the school if there are concerns through liaison with the class teacher or the head of department
- Be positive with their child about their learning and support with research tasks where possible. Whilst supporting and guiding their child in their learning is helpful, it is important to ensure their child is responsible for their homework and that tasks are completed as independently as possible

### **Role of the Academy Leadership Team**

- The leadership team will monitor homework in different year groups/departments on a regular basis as part of the ongoing quality assurance cycle

### **Procedures for support in completing homework**

- Good work (including the effort taken to complete) should be celebrated through effective feedback
- Students should complete homework tasks when they are set. Departments (where appropriate) should share the running of detentions between colleagues. The purpose of these detentions will be to start the process of completing the task or to discuss the reason why the work is not of an adequate standard
- Students who consistently fail to complete homework tasks should be sanctioned firstly by the class teacher issuing a warning and re submission date, then a break time detention. If this still is not resolved then contact with home and follow up by heads of department will result in an after school detention.
- Morning Club - students can receive support in organising the day ahead of them, including organising and prioritising homework tasks
- Study Club – students can work on study skills and homework tasks in an ICT suite supported by a member of staff, after school four days a week
- Tutor Time – tutors allow time once or twice a week to teach students study skills, to monitor homework tasks and support students to complete tasks set
- Study Support Interventions – students identified by tutors or teaching staff as having difficulty meeting deadlines/keeping up their independent study will attend after school support sessions designed to support them to manage incomplete tasks

## **Accessibility**

Students with additional needs who may find organising homework challenging receive the following support in:

- Accessing ClassCharts
- Using a variety of means of recording tasks and through a reduced menu of tasks