



Icknield Community College

HOMEWORK POLICY



Approval & Review

Author: MRF

Review Period: Annually

Status of Policy: Key Policy

Reviewed by (Committee):	Governing Body
Date of Review:	25 January 2022

Signed:

(Chair of Governing Body)



Effectively working beyond lessons has a considerably positive impact on students' learning and understanding and, as such, our aim is to support students to build effective study habits and to encourage them to become independent learners. Homework (any work or activity which students are asked to do beyond lesson time - on their own or with parents or carers) is part of the way that students work to do this. A student's performance in the completion of homework is part (but not the only criteria) of their 'Beyond Lessons' *Attitude to Learning* judgement.

Some purposes of homework are:

- To encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work beyond lessons and on their own: an essential skill for adult life.
- To enable students to devote time to particular demands such as GCSE non-exam components or project work.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding learned in class.
- For pre-learning prior to a particular topic covered in lessons.
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading.

Types of homework

It is important that students should have frequent and increasing opportunities to develop and consolidate their competencies beyond lessons, as independent learners. There will be a variety of homework tasks each helping students to do this in different ways, some of which are detailed below:

Type of homework	Purpose
Writing	To extend and consolidate use of technical vocabulary to demonstrate understanding of a topic or to develop writing skills eg. Describe, Persuade, Argue, Report, Review
Preparation for a Project	To enable students to explore their own concepts and ideas based on classroom topics or to develop work covered in a project on a school trip.
Preparing for a Presentation	To develop presentation skills and the ability to coordinate work with others for example in the Year 9 Media topic in English.
Additional Reading	To prepare for a lesson in English on analysing texts, to inform a planned discussion in a lesson, pre-read material in preparation for an exam or simply to read for enjoyment developing general literacy.
Completing a Quiz	To assess understanding and retention of work covered in a lesson and inform follow up teaching or to gather information about current ideas before starting a new topic.



Interactive / Online Tasks	A number of subjects use web-based resources to set homework tasks which are sometimes (but not always) also submitted online to the class teacher.
Experimental Reports	To analyse results and report on findings from classroom experiments in Science or to analyse data from real life maths investigations.
Model Building	To enable creativity whilst developing a further understanding of scale and proportion and/or exploring understanding of an abstract concept.
Exam Practice	To allow students to become familiar with using GCSE exam style questions and to develop their ability to apply their knowledge and use key vocabulary correctly. This also allows students to become more familiar with use of exam papers and mark schemes which are a big part of effective revision for GCSE exams.
Research or Flipped Learning	To carry out independent research to feed into a lesson topic or an independent learning task which is then extended or built upon in the following lessons. This could also be set for a student to catch up work from a lesson they have missed.
Learning Vocabulary	To learn key vocabulary including spelling and pronunciation in order to improve the quality of explanations and descriptions.
Revision	To develop effective revision techniques not only for end of topic tests and consolidating classwork but ultimately for GCSE exams
Photography or Drawing	To develop observation and drawing skills, processes and techniques
Materials Collection	To collect personal materials for use in an Art or Design piece or to obtain ingredients for a recipe to use in a Food and Nutrition lesson
Acting on Feedback	To consolidate, extend and develop a piece of work for example - a GCSE coursework portfolio in Art or an essay in English or History in response to feedback given in lessons.



How will homework be set?

Icknield Community College has a fixed homework timetable with time allocated for different subjects on different evenings. This ensures that homework is set evenly across the week and by different subjects. From time to time, for a number of different reasons (eg. educational visits, staff absence, exams), staff may deviate from the homework timetable but this would be an exception rather than the norm.

Show My Homework

At Icknield, homework is set using *Satchel: One*. *Satchel: One* is a widely used and very successful online platform that can be used from phones, tablets or computers. *Satchel: One* allows:

- Teachers to easily set homework and attach resources, links etc.
- Students to view and manage their homework from a home computer, phone or tablet.
- Students to set-up reminders for due dates, contact their teachers or submit work online.
- Parents to view the homework set by using their own personal log-in or by searching the site using the school name and year group.
- School Leaders to monitor the setting of homework across the school.

Homework tasks will be published online on *Satchel: One* which can be reached through the *Satchel: One* icon on the school website. *Satchel: One* gives details about each homework set per class by each teacher. Specific homework details will be provided by the class teacher on *Satchel: One* and in the lesson in which it is set. Resources for the homework may be on *Satchel: One*, shared via a Onenote Class Notebook or given out in class as a hard copy if needed. Teachers may ask students to use a resource from *Satchel: One* and write answers into their books. If printing is needed then teachers will make a hard copy available if any student needs one. They will also provide alternative resources if ICT is needed to complete the task and a student does not have ICT access. Teachers will not usually set homework to be completed for the next day, but will give students a minimum of two days to complete the homework. The time devoted to homework should increase as the student progresses through the school as the need to become a strong independent learner increases.

Amount of homework set / subjects receiving 'Beyond Lessons' Attitude to Learning (AtL) grade:

The below tables give details of the amounts of homework set by all subjects and also details which subjects give a 'Beyond Lessons' AtL grade.

We give students a grade for their attitude to learning both in and beyond their lessons. The 'Beyond Lessons' grade takes into account a student's homework performance as well as the independent work they do outside of school.

Please note that Year 7 will receive their first set of 'Beyond Lessons' grades in term 3, Years 8 and 9 get their first set in term 2.



Students in Years 7-9		
Subject	Homework set	'Beyond Lessons' AtL Grade
English	1 homework per week taking 30 to 45 minutes	✓
Maths	1 homework per week taking 30 to 45 minutes	✓
Science	1 homework per week taking 30 to 45 minutes (Year 9 students will be set Science homework twice per week by their 2 different teachers each taking 30 minutes)	✓
French or Spanish	1 homework per week taking 30 to 45 minutes	✓
History	1 homework per fortnight taking 30 to 45 minutes	✓
Geography	1 homework per fortnight taking 30 to 45 minutes.	✓
Art, Dance, Drama, Music, 3D Design, Textiles, Computing, Food & Nutrition, PE, RE and Citizenship	Homework will not regularly be set in these subjects however there may be an occasion where some work is required at home for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting ingredients ready for Food & Nutrition lessons. • An independent project in Art • Learning lines for a school performance • Instrumental practice • Practising PE warm-up techniques at home 	x

Students in Year 10 and 11		
Subject	Homework set	'Beyond Lessons' AtL Grade
English	1 homework per week taking 1 hour	✓
Maths	1 homework per week taking 1 hour	✓
Combined Science	2 homeworks per week each taking 45 minutes set by the 2 different science teachers.	✓
Separate Science	3 homeworks per week taking 1 hour from each of their Biology, Chemistry and Physics teachers separately.	✓
<u>GCSE Option Subjects:</u> French Spanish Geography History 3D Design Art, Craft & Design Computing Drama Food & Nutrition Health and Social Care ICT Media Music	1 homework per week taking 1 hour	✓



PE (GCSE) Religious Education Dance (from Sept 2022 tbc) Textiles (from Sept 2022 tbc)		
Citizenship PE (Core)	No homework set	x

Non-completion of homework

When homework has not been completed to a suitable and appropriate standard, action will be taken by the classroom teacher. Non-completion will be recorded in teacher homework records and this will have an impact on a student's 'Beyond Lessons' AtL grade where relevant.

Supporting students with homework

School

- Subject teachers are responsible for setting appropriate homework and for providing some form of feedback where it is valuable to do so. This feedback may be written, verbal or by self- or peer-assessment.
- Heads of Department and subject leaders are responsible for ensuring that all teachers in their faculty are setting appropriate homework regularly and providing feedback where appropriate.
- Homework quality and quantity set across the whole school will be monitored by a member of the Leadership Team.

Parents/Carers

- Parents/carers are encouraged to support students with their homework and with the use of *Satchel: One* to meet deadlines, but accept that their role will become less and less hands on as students become more responsible and independent.
- Parents/carers are advised to try to provide a quiet place where students can work or encourage them to make use of the school's facilities.
- If parents/carers have any concerns about the homework being set, they should contact the relevant Head of Department or subject leader.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to support the school in explaining the importance of homework.

Students

- Students should check *Satchel: One* for homework that has been set
- Students must inform the ICT Manager if they have lost or forgotten their *Satchel: One* log-in details.
- Students should ensure deadlines are met.
- If students are absent, they need to find out what work has been missed and catch up on it.
- Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline.



- Students should take pride in their work.