

Reviewed: October 2018
Review period: Biannual

Bacup & Rawtenstall Grammar School



Independent Learning Policy

Bacup and Rawtenstall Whole School Independent Learning Policy

Rationale

Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School recognises that independent learning is an important part of students' learning; it supports and extends learning begun in class and enables students to develop habits of study and strategies for personal organisation and time management. It is also a means by which parents can support and show a direct interest in their child's learning.

Independent learning tasks will vary according to subjects and learning activities; not all homework will be written exercises. Some may involve practising, drawing or making. Some may involve IT and different types of research. Some could be based around your son / daughter watching a particular TV programme or listening to a podcast, but all tasks set must be purposeful and meet the key principles that we have defined below.

Aims

- To establish a consistent approach to the quality of independent learning tasks that are set
- To provide a whole school framework for departments in developing highly effective independent learning activities whilst allowing a degree of freedom to determine which activities best suit the specific needs of different subject areas and classes within subject areas
- Independent learning will be linked to the child's learning within the classroom and will meet one of the key purposes determined below

Pupils will be allocated a specific amount of time that they should expect to spend on independent learning over a two week period; this will be managed by teachers to ensure that pupils can plan effectively. In particular, the length of time allocated to completing a task will match the length of the task that has been set. Independent learning tasks should not be set for the next day, unless it's a short consolidation task or preparation task.

All independent learning tasks must be purposeful and should fulfil one of the following purposes:

- Developing specific skills (SKILLS)
- Committing information to memory (LEARNING)
- Practising exam technique (EXAM TECHNIQUE)
- Extending or deepening understanding of content (EXTENDING)
- Preparing for future learning/assessment (PREPARATION)

Departmental Independent Learning Policy and Practice

Departments will determine which independent learning activities will be consistent across the year groups; these may be related to specific assessment points.

Our systems for monitoring and ensuring that independent learning is effective

Teachers have the responsibility to set independent learning tasks, as per school and department policy, and **MUST** ensure that all pupils write the task in their planners. It is essential that independent learning tasks, in a similar way to classwork, is challenging and meets the needs of the pupils in the classroom.

Heads of department s have the responsibility to ensure that there is a clear understanding of independent learning practice and consistency across the department and will monitor the tasks that are set.

Form tutors have the responsibility to ensure that pupils are using their planners properly, recording independent learning tasks and that parents are signing the planners.

Heads of year have the responsibility to look at independent learning practice over a number of weeks, monitoring practice and policy through reviewing student planners and pupil and parent voice.

The time that pupils should spend on independent learning over a two week cycle:

KS3 Subject	Time allocated/expected
English	45-90 minutes per fortnight
Maths	45-90 minutes per fortnight
Science	45-90 minutes per fortnight
RE	45-90 minutes per fortnight
MFL	45-90 minutes per fortnight
Geography	30-60 minutes per fortnight
History	45- 90 minutes per fortnight
Computing	30 minutes per fortnight
DT	30-60 minutes per fortnight
Art	60-90 minutes per fortnight
Music	30 minutes per fortnight
Drama (Year 9 only)	0-30 minutes per fortnight

KS4 Subject	Time allocated
English	90-150 minutes per fortnight
Maths	90-150 minutes per fortnight
Biology	40-120 minutes per fortnight
Chemistry	40-120 minutes per fortnight
Physics	40-120 minutes per fortnight
RE	45-90 minutes per fortnight
Sociology	45-90 minutes per fortnight
Geography	120-160 minutes per fortnight
History	120-180 minutes per fortnight
Computing	120 minutes per fortnight
Art	120 minutes per fortnight
MFL	60-90 minutes per fortnight
Drama	120 minutes per fortnight
Music	120 minutes per fortnight
Product Design/ Food	90 minutes per fortnight
PE	60 minutes per fortnight