Independent Learning Policy

Procedure Originator:	ASM
Approved By:	MBO
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Audience:	Teaching staff/Parents

1. Introduction

At The Orme Academy, we recognise the importance of independent learning in helping students to consolidate their learning, maximise their progress and achieve their potential. It is our belief that by providing students with opportunities to learn independently they will become active learners who will have an enthusiasm for learning that extends beyond academic performance into adulthood.

Subjects are expected to set independent learning tasks without exception. This work should be challenging, meaningful and linked explicitly to each subjects' learning aims.

Success at Key Stage 3 and 4 will be influenced by the effective independent study habits students develop, particularly in relation to homework and this policy aims to use independent learning to develop students' independence from the time they arrive at The Orme Academy. Quality independent learning is recognised by the Education Endowment Foundation as having a positive effect on learning, particularly when students are set planned and focussed activities that are linked to learning in class.

2. Independent learning at The Orme Academy

Students at The Orme Academy will be:

- Passionate about their learning and their own development
- Self-managers
- Knowledgeable regarding how best to learn.

We want our students at The Orme Academy to become lifelong learners that are ready to grasp any opportunities available to them and take control of their future.

Underpinning this work is the idea of growth mindset. This being that intelligence is not fixed and can grow through harder and smarter working.

3. Why is Independent Learning important?

At The Orme Academy, we are committed to developing a learner's confidence, so they are able to tackle challenging work and find ways to overcome difficulties independently.

Regular setting of meaningful independent learning enables students to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in the lesson and prepare for new learning activities
- Access resources not available in the classroom
- Develop research skills
- Develop independent working skills essential for academic success at all levels
- Extend knowledge through further research and additional reading
- Show progress and understanding
- Take on responsibility for their learning and management of time
- Engage parental cooperation and support
- Experience success

4. Examples of independent learning

Independent learning tasks should be varied and give students the opportunity to reinforce concepts learned in the classroom; explore and investigate topics in more depth; extend learning to enrich the understanding of key concepts or complete assessment tasks. The purpose of independent learning is not to finish work left incomplete during lesson time. Some possible examples are listed below.

- Reading, writing and extended writing activities
- Research
- Practicing and applying skills that have been developed during lesson
- Answering examination questions
- Drafting work
- Learning new content in preparation for a future lesson
- Reinforcing, reviewing, or consolidating information
- Revision for a forthcoming assessment
- Online revision resources

Any of these tasks could be set to underpin the relevant learning aims where possible, should be differentiated to ensure a degree of challenge for all students. In addition, students may be given a choice of task from an 'independent learning menu'.

Where project tasks are set, students should allocate sufficient time to complete the work over several weeks.

5. Frequency, duration and recording of independent learning

The Academy does not publish a prescriptive timetable; subject leaders will have identified independent learning tasks through their schemes of learning. Students will be given reasonable deadlines by their teachers to complete independent learning tasks and students should develop their organisation skills by ensuring they meet the deadlines.

Subject areas will ensure that all tasks and links are available on Insight to ensure that all independent learning can be accessed by the teachers, students, and parents. Teaching staff will ensure that all students are equipped with the necessary resources and skills to successfully complete tasks.

6. Expectations

All students are expected to complete their independent learning. Academy praise and reward systems (e.g. ACE points) are awarded for successful completion, similarly intervention processes will be pt in place for those that don't.