

# **MANCHESTER HEALTH ACADEMY**

## **HOMEWORK AND INDEPENDENT LEARNING POLICY**

## HOMEWORK AND INDEPENDENT LEARNING POLICY

### Approval History

Approved By:	Date of Approval	Version Approved	Comments
	15.07.09	V1	Base document
		V2	
Standards Committee	13/11/14	V3	
Full Governing Body	06/10/16	V4	
Full Governing Body	04/10/18	V5	

### Revision History

Revision Date	Previous Revision Date	Rev	Summary of Changes	Changes Marked	Owner/Editor
Nov 2014		V3	Policy update and input into new policy format	No	DMM
Sept 2016		V4	Policy update and input into policy format	Yes (*italics)	DMM
Oct 2018		V5	Policy review with limited changes	Yes (*italics)	JF

## 1. Purpose

The purpose and aim of this policy is to:

- Practise independent study skills and develop resilience and self-discipline.
- Encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning and research.
- Provide extension work to meet the needs of all learners, aiming to ensure our more able learners maximise their potential in line with similar students nationally.
- Support the Academy assessment policy.

## 2. Scope

This policy is to be used and followed by all teaching staff at the Academy and applies to all students attending Manchester Health Academy.

## 3. Responsibility

### 3.1 Academy's responsibilities

- The Curriculum Leader is responsible for ensuring the setting of appropriate Independent Learning tasks by their staff and overseeing the assessment.
- Tutors and teachers should check that students are recording details of Independent Learning set in their planners.
- Tasks that are completed should be rewarded through PRIDE /Reward points on SIMS/Class charts by every teacher.
- Curriculum Leaders are responsible for ensuring that all teachers in their area are setting and assessing appropriate Independent Learning tasks. This should be formally checked half-termly and will form part of Learning Team reviews.
- Acknowledge that homework has been completed by students

### 3.2 Parents'/Carers' role in Independent Learning

- Parents/carers should support students with their Independent Learning but accept that their input should diminish as students become more responsible and independent.
- Parents/carers should try and provide a reasonable place where students can work or encourage them to make use of Academy facilities before and after school.
- Parents/carers should encourage students to meet Independent Learning deadlines.
- If parents/carers feel insufficient or too many Independent Learning tasks are being set, they should contact the Academy so that the situation can be investigated.
- Parents/carers should make it clear to students that they value Independent Learning and support the Academy in explaining how it can help them to progress.
- Parents/carers should encourage students and praise them when Independent Learning is completed.
- Parents/carers ought to be able to access the issuing of homework topics through class charts

### **3.3 Students' Responsibilities**

- Students should always carry their planner with them.
- Students should record the Independent Learning tasks planned to confirm what has been set via Class Charts to ensure their understanding of the task set
- Students need to work to deadlines
- If students are absent, they need to find out what work has been missed and catch up on it. Being away on the day that Independent Learning is set is not an excuse for not doing it.
- Problems with Independent Learning should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary, students should see the teacher in advance of the deadline.
- Students should take a pride in doing their best.
- Students should record homework each week in their planner.

## **4. Our Approach**

4.1 Manchester Health Academy will aim to achieve outstanding student progress through the Academy's Homework and Independent Learning Policy. Learning beyond the classroom is an essential part of good education. Independent Learning is important as it give students the opportunity to practise beyond the classroom the tasks covered in class and helps the students work towards improving important skills. It also helps young people to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at the Academy and in adult life. Technology now enables students to complete assignments, homework or independent study easily at home using the internet.

4.2 The purpose of Independent Learning is to:

- Encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own, an essential skill for adult life.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding.
- Extend school learning, for example through additional reading.
- Enable students to devote time to particular demands such as GCSE coursework or project work.
- Support the home-school relationship.
- To support learning in the classroom, deepen subject knowledge and improve progress overtime

4.3 Key areas for the Academy Independent Learning Policy are therefore:

- Developing a home-academy partnership.
- Consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding.
- Extending learning beyond the classroom.

## **5. Guidelines**

5.1 All teachers are expected to set, acknowledge and reward homework according to their subject guidelines.

5.2 Homework Guidelines for Parents Years 7 & 8 and Years 9, 10 & 11 can be found on the Academy website, at <http://www.manchesterhealthacademy.org.uk/teaching-learning/homework/>

5.3 The following are examples of homework that is set:

- Setting essays, answering set questions and worksheets
- Longer-term projects, coursework or extended homework
- Research
- Maps, diagrams, art work, posters and model making
- Decision-making and problem solving exercises
- Fieldwork
- Revision work in preparation for tests or examinations
- Reading fiction and non-fiction

5.4 **All teachers will promote good progress and outcomes by students as stated in the DFE Teachers Standards and...**

- Be accountable for students' attainment, progress and outcomes.
- Be aware of students' capabilities and their prior knowledge, and plan teaching to build on these.
- Guide students to reflect on the progress they have made and their emerging needs.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how students learn and how this impacts on teaching.

## 6. The amount of Independent Learning

6.1 Students will be set independent learning activities for each subject they study – see homework grids and parental guidelines.

6.2 Students in Years 7-8 will have a number of pieces of Independent Learning per half term for English, Maths, Science, Technology, ICT, Modern Foreign Languages and performing Arts and Art, although these will be of variable length depending on the task type, selected from the homework grid.

6.3 Homework will be differentiated where necessary to take account of individual needs.

6.4 *\*Year 11 – weekly homework will be set from all subject areas.\**

## 7. Types of Independent Learning

It is important that students should have frequent and increasing opportunities to develop and consolidate their competencies as independent learners. Independent Learning should not be exclusively dependent on ICT and might include such things as:

- Writing assignments
- Revising for tests and exams
- GCSE coursework or preparation for controlled assessments
- Preparing an oral presentation
- Reading in preparation for lesson
- Finding out information/researching a project

- Visual assignments (art work, for example)
- Completing an independent learning mini project

## **8. Organisation of Independent Learning**

- 8.1 All students have a planner which they are expected to have with them at all times to record their homework. Tutors and parents/carers are asked to check and sign these on a weekly basis. *\*Planners will be stamped with a homework stamp on each occasion that homework is set (stamps are subject specific).\**
- 8.2 All independent learning assessments can be accessed through the Academy Virtual Learning Environment at home or in the Academy.
- 8.3 **Each independent learning task will make clear to the students the following:**
- learning objectives
  - assessment criteria
  - the task
  - the type of extended learning opportunities
  - the resources required

## **9. Non-completion of Independent Learning**

- 9.1 When Independent Learning has not been completed teachers will record this in students planners, either through a note to parent/carers or through a “no homework stamp”.
- 9.2 Each half term non completion of Independent Learning will result in a standard letter home.
- 9.3 Non-completion will be reflected in a student’s effort grade in their half termly assessments.

## **10. Related Documents**

Other relevant documents include:

- Homework Guidance for Parents (Years 7 & 8)
- Homework Guidance for Parents (Years 9 to 11)

To view these documents and homework outlines for individual subjects please visit the Academy website at <http://www.manchesterhealthacademy.org.uk/parents-carers-students/homework-provision/>