



St Ives School

Home Learning Policy



School Name: St Ives School

Dissemination: Website and T: Drive

Date policy approved by Governors: Pending approval September 2023

Date policy becomes effective: Immediately

Review date: October 2024

Person responsible for Implementation and Evaluation: Assistant Headteacher

Links to other relevant policies: Teaching and Learning Policy / Behaviour Policy

Introduction

Students leave St Ives School with high value achievements and life skills that provide a platform for future success and happiness. We are inspired to work together to research, design and implement highly effective and sustainable solutions to develop and maintain our thriving school community. Continuous improvement is achieved through a whole school culture and commitment to: Creativity, Engagement, Professionalism.

At St Ives School, we have high expectations of all members of our learning community: students, staff and parents/carers. We know that effective teaching and learning is the key to unlocking our students' ability and potential and we all support each other and strive to improve our daily practice. St Ives School is committed to ensuring that all our students achieve their full potential. All lessons are designed with clear outcomes and strategies to engage students in learning and encourage independence and resilience.

St Ives School believes that every student should have the opportunity to benefit from high quality, regular and frequent home learning. All students are expected to complete the home learning set as an important and integral part of their learning. Home learning has a significant impact on improving students' understanding and achievement and helps students to identify their next steps in learning. At St Ives School we aim, through the Home learning Policy, to provide a consistent framework that will allow students to understand that

independent learning has a significant positive impact on future success and to give the opportunity for every student to achieve their potential. The policy's framework provides regular practice for students in planning and organising their time and to promote their individual responsibility for learning.

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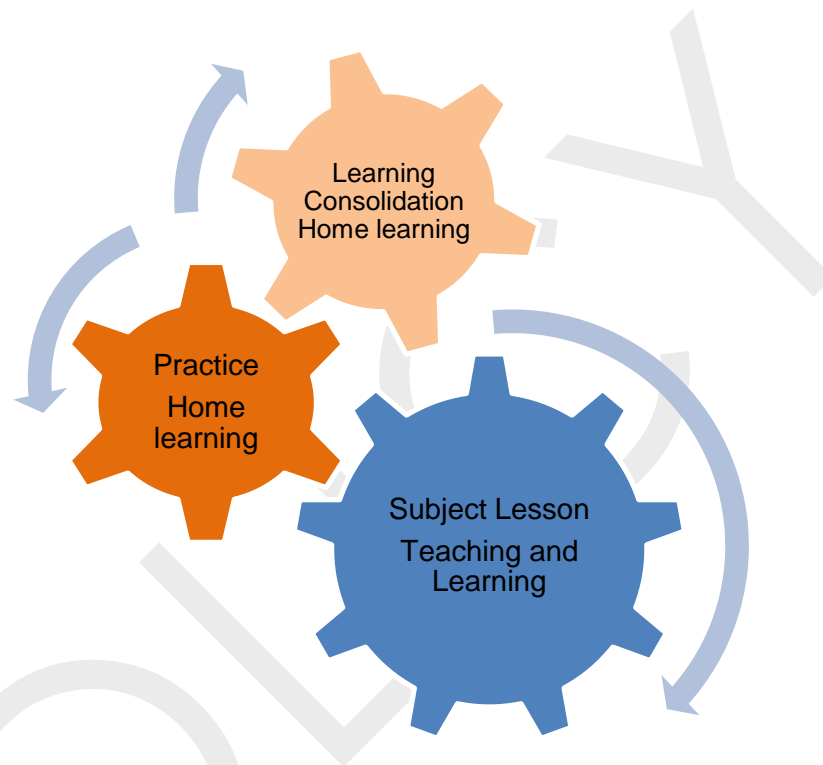
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Section 1 – Effective Home learning

1.1 Model for Effective Home learning

For home learning to be effective it needs to be relevant, appropriate and challenging and to be supported through high quality teaching and learning in the classroom.



1.2 Purpose of Home learning

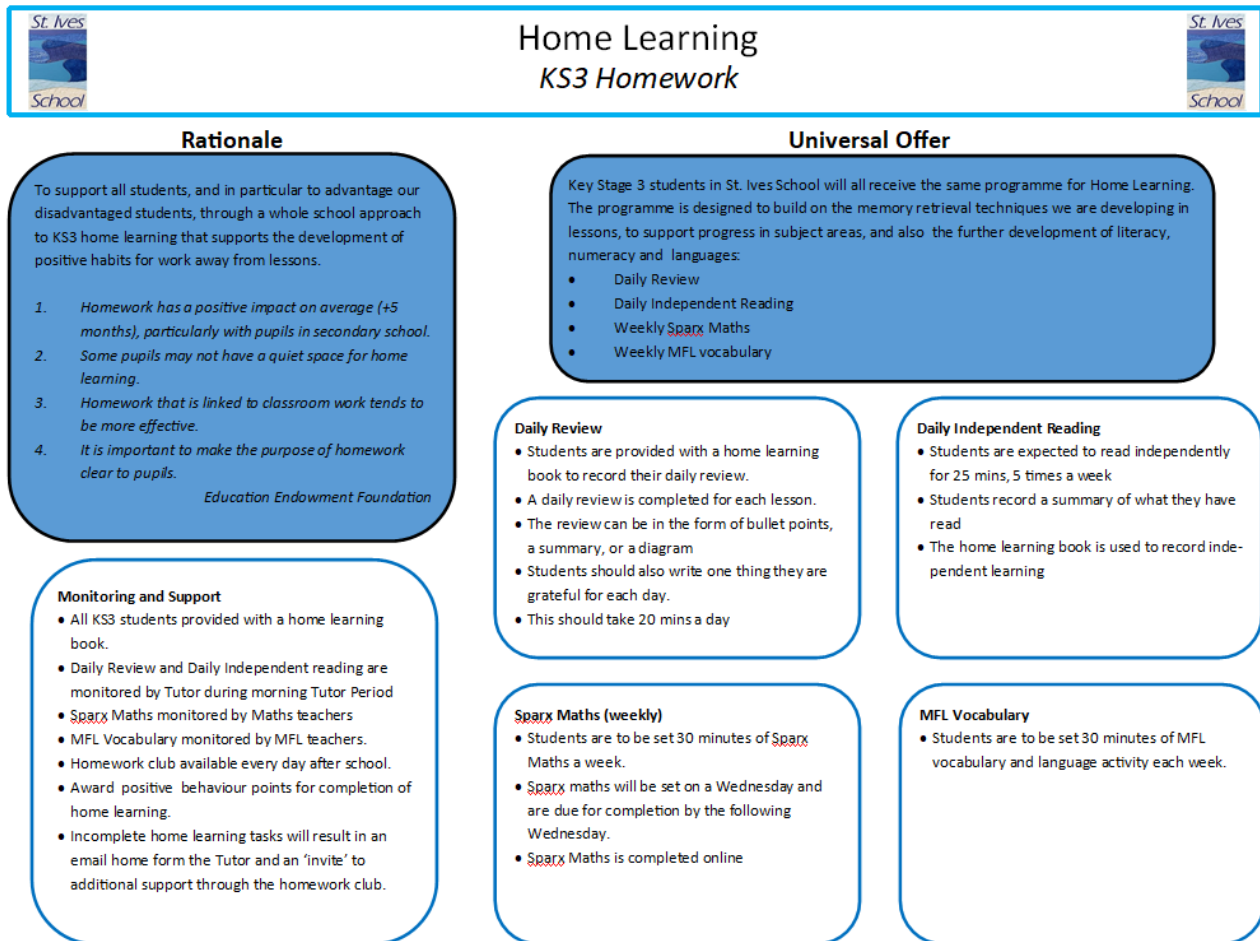
- To encourage and develop self-discipline, good study habits and a range of skills in planning and time management.
- To reinforce, extend and consolidate learning.
- To give students experience of working independently; to develop a sense of responsibility and commitment to their own learning.
- To involve parents/carers as partners in their child's education.
- To support assessment of student progress by providing the teacher with information about what the student can achieve without the support of their peers (or teacher).

1.3 Home learning – Overview

- Students are expected to take full responsibility for completing their home learning to a good standard by the given deadline.
- Home learning is issued in appropriate quantities, in line with the Home learning schedule, and completion dates are clear and reasonable to take into account the home environment and extra-curricular activities.
- Home learning is differentiated to match the needs and abilities of students and to promote opportunities for consolidation and extension.
- Students will be appropriately prepared to be able to complete their home learning e.g., where it is pre-learning for a topic students will be provided with clear guidelines and expectations to support their work.
- Home learning reflects the breadth and balance of the curriculum, with the frequency of home learning reflecting subject curriculum time allocation.

Section 2 – KS3 Home Learning

2.1 KS3 Home Learning Blueprint



Section 3 – KS4 Types of Home learning

3.1 Practice home learning

Opportunities to apply new knowledge and learning or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills.

- Consolidation e.g., practice questions, learning language phrases.
- Mastery e.g., spelling, extension questions.
- Revision: NB where revision is set, there will be a specific outcome given e.g., flash cards/mind maps. The teacher will ensure that all students have the resources they need to be able to revise.
- Essays or extended answer questions.

3.2 Extension Assignments

Encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and in depth. These may be set as optional work.

- Extended Writing e.g., book reviews, school newspapers, creative writing.
- Designing and/or making e.g., product design, model making.
- Investigations or experiments e.g., in science or Geography.
- Researching a topic in detail e.g., local history, current affairs.
- Monitoring projects e.g., local traffic, newspaper advertising.

3.3 Online Home learning

Students who do not have home access to a computer must be provided with a print out of the online resource or a suitable paper based alternative. There is a supervised after school home learning club to support students to access online resources.

The following activities are NOT set as home learning as they have very limited learning value:

- Unstructured and un-resourced research.
- Finishing classwork: this does not provide quality learning and may mean that students have very variable amounts of work to complete. Home learning must be pre-planned to ensure activities are worthwhile and high quality.
- Word searches, crosswords or Posters.

Section 4 - Amount of Home learning

4.1 Home learning Timings

It is difficult to set a specific time for the completion of home learning. The same piece of work may take one student a short amount of time to complete, whilst another student may take much longer to complete the same assignment.

As a general rule:

- KS3 – Daily Review 20 minutes per day, Independent Reading 25 minutes per day, Sparx Maths 30 minutes per week, MFL Vocabulary 30 minutes per week.
- KS4 – Subject specific home learning tasks 45 minutes per subject, per home learning task.

Wherever possible, home learning should be completed in full sentences. Students are expected to follow the school's policy for presentation of work when completing their home learning.

4.2 Frequency of Home learning

The table below gives details of the subjects which set home learning in each year group:

Key Stage 3 (Year 7, 8 & 9)	KS4 (Year 10 & 11)
Daily Review (daily)	English, Maths and Science (weekly)
Independent Reading (daily)	Option subjects (weekly or fortnightly depending on the subject)
Sparx Maths (weekly)	
MFL Vocabulary (weekly)	
NB: Ingredients for Food Technology will be detailed on ClassCharts	

4.3 KS4 School Home learning Practice

- Teachers will ensure that the home learning set is relevant, challenging and stimulating and will explain the work clearly to students to ensure they understand the context and relevance of the task.
- Home learning assignments will be published by teachers on ClassCharts so that parents/carers can have an overview of their child's schedule and to help students with their organisation.
- Home learning will be set with at least 48 hours (two evenings) prior to the deadline.
- Teachers will set home learning in line with St Ives School Home learning schedule. Subjects will have an agreed day on which home learning is set and teachers will ensure that home learning is set according to the agreed frequency. This applies to all students.
- Home learning will be marked through self, peer or teacher marking. The standard of home learning will be reported to parents in twice yearly reports. Any short-term concerns will be raised by the teacher who will contact parents.

4.4 Home learning Rewards

- Students will be awarded house points when submitting home learning on time and to an acceptable standard; there will be additional house points given to those students whose Home learning is deemed 'excellent'.
- Extensions are expected to be given as an exception; if students need an extension, they are expected to speak to their teacher in advance of the lesson. Parents can also contact teachers by email.
- Heads of Faculty will ensure that teachers plan, prepare and set realistic and manageable programmes of home learning for KS4. Heads of Faculty will ensure that accurate records are maintained by teachers of completion and non-completion of assignments. Heads of Faculty will monitor the implementation of the home learning policy in their subjects to ensure that all teachers are following the home learning policy in time.

4.5 Accessibility

To ensure all students can complete their home learning to a good standard, teachers will:

- follow the KS3 Home Learning Blueprint.
- avoid setting home learning that requires unusual, expensive or complex resources beyond paper and a pen.
- provide a full resource pack for students where appropriate.
- provide home learning to KS4 which is appropriately challenging.
- provide clear instructions and check students understand what work has been set and how to complete it.
- set home learning for KS4 at the start of the lesson.
- provide textbooks, photocopies of resource sheets, or specific website addresses to support KS4 research home learning.
- provide a clear structure to KS4 for report writing, and/or clear expectations for the length of work required e.g., word count.
- not assume that students have access to a computer at home.
- contact parents if home learning is repeatedly missed, late or is poor quality.

Section 5 - Monitoring and Evaluation

KS3 home learning will be monitored by Tutors through checks of the Home Learning Book in morning Tutor time. Heads of Faculty and the Leadership Team will monitor the quality and frequency of home learning through Learning Walks, Lessons Observations, Work Scrutiny and the analysis of whole school home learning data. Time will be designated for this as part of the School Improvement Team schedule.

Information from these activities will be shared with faculties and Governors. Teachers will be asked to provide feedback for further development of the school's home learning policy. Student Learning Councils will provide feedback on the students' perspective on home learning.

Status of the Policy

This policy does not form part of the formal contract of employment, but it is a condition of employment that employees will abide by the rules and policies made by the School and Trust. Failures to comply with this policy may therefore result in disciplinary actions.