



Dixons City Academy

Policy Documentation

Policy: Home Learning

Responsibility for Review: Assistant Principal – Learning and Literacy
Date of Last Review: July 2016

Home Learning

Statement of Policy:

The Academy believes that home learning is likely to be used positively when students feel that the demands on them are realistic, consistent across the curriculum and worthwhile in terms of what they are learning. The Academy is committed to ensuring that both staff and students use home learning effectively with clear guidelines about what is appropriate, how much is expected and when it is to be set.

The aims are to:

- to inform parents about their children's learning and the approaches and techniques used in the Academy
- encourage parents to become involved in their children's learning through understanding and discussing home learning tasks
- to give all students the opportunity to consolidate and extend what they have learned in the Academy and to make best use of an effective way of improving learning
- to help students to plan their time and develop confidence in learning
- to help students develop independent learning skills, to use now and in their future life
- to improve retention and recall of key facts in preparation for examinations

Procedures:

Use Variety

Staff must set home learning which is varied in content, sufficiently differentiated and which is seen by students as being of value. While written tasks are often useful, many useful tasks are not written, e.g. reading from a textbook, locating a resource in the Library, collecting some materials or equipment for practical work, surveys of opinion, learning vocabulary and specific tasks for group work within independent learning schemes.

Home learning should not penalise students who do not work as quickly as other students for reasons related to individual needs, nor should it result in higher ability students receiving less work than other students. Home learning must always be set even if it is revision and consolidation. This is to ensure regularity and encourage good learning habits.

Set and Mark Regularly

In order to emphasise the contribution home learning makes to progress, home learning must be set regularly and, where appropriate, promptly and constructively marked. However, tasks must not be set just for the sake of it. Invalid homework would interfere with valid out-of-Academy activities. Not all homework will be marked by the teacher, however students and parents can expect formal feedback every 2-3 weeks as appropriate.

Use the School Planner

All students have an academic school planner in which they note down what home learning is set for each lesson. The teacher must ensure that all students do this. The planner is signed by the parent(s) and form tutor each week. Where home learning is not completed, the teacher can comment in the student planner to indicate this to parents and form tutor. If this happens, the student will be issued a P2 after school detention.

The Parent-Student-Academy contract stresses the need for parents to support their child's education, through assisting in home learning and providing facilities at home.

Home Learning Timetable

Each year a home learning timetable will be constructed for each year group showing on which night subjects will be set. Staff must abide by this timetable in their setting of home learning, approximately three subjects will be set each night, although in Post-16 it could be more. During exam preparation, this will increase.

Reasonable Time Demands

The amount of time to be spent on home learning increases as students develop their independence with maturity. The approximate time per subject per night increases from 20 minutes in Year 7 to 40 minutes in Year 10 and 11. For post-16 home learning is expected to take up to five hours per subject, per week.

Help in Difficulty

Staff and parents must encourage students to return for help if they seem to be spending excessive amounts of time on home learning.

Ensuring it Happens

Heads of Department have responsibility for making sure that teachers within their department know, understand and implement this policy.

Recording

Home learning should always be set. If there is no new learning it will always be revise and consolidate.