



INDEPENDENT STUDY POLICY

St. Ninian's High School

Scoill Ard Noo Ninian

*“Empowering our students to be self-motivated and confident young people who have **respect** for others and clear **aspirations** for their future success”*

Independent Study is any learning activity or task which students are asked to do outside of lesson time. This was previously termed ‘homework’.

The Purpose of Independent Study is:-

- to encourage students to develop the confidence, self-motivation and self-discipline to work on their own, an essential skill for adult life;
- to consolidate and reinforce knowledge and skills acquired in School;
- to challenge and extend the learning that takes place in school lessons;
- to prepare students for upcoming lessons;
- to allow optimum use of teacher expertise;
- to facilitate and encourage parental involvement and support the home/school relationship.

The Range of Independent Study tasks may include:-

- Wider reading;
- Exam question practice;
- Revision/preparation for tests or assessments;
- Research tasks;
- Practice of skills and processes;
- Acquiring or collecting resources or information;
- Assignments requiring analysis or interpretation;
- Reflective tasks;
- Extended projects involving a range of the above.

Organisation of Independent Study:-

All students should record their independent study tasks on the correct page of their student planner at the time it is set.

Teachers can either share tasks with students through Google Classrooms or directly with students during the lesson. The purpose of each task and the date it should be submitted should be made clear.

Parents/Carers should check Student Planners on a weekly basis to help support students in organising their work at home.

Amount & frequency of Independent Study:-

Please note the total amount will vary week to week and will be dependent on proximity to assessments, coursework projects and examinations. Students will be expected to manage their time and organise their work stream through their planner.

Non-completion of Independent Study Tasks:-

When a task or assignment has not been completed by the stated deadline, action will be taken by the relevant teacher / department which will involve recording the non-completion of work and informing parents/carers of the non-completion. Each student's ability to study independently will be made explicit in all interim and full written reports. Punitive sanctions such as detentions will not be issued for the non-completion of independent study tasks but students successfully completing their work on time will be rewarded more through 'e-praise' - the new school reward system.

School's Responsibilities:-

- The subject teacher is responsible for setting appropriate independent study tasks, monitoring its completion and marking it regularly. S/he should check that students are recording details of the tasks set in their planner or through Google Classroom.
- At Lower School tasks should be set to ensure that there is more than one night in which to complete it. This allows students to plan their time, participate in out of school activities if they wish, and still be able to complete all of their work.
- The school will provide some quiet accommodation before and after school, as well as at lunchtimes for any students wishing to carry out independent study tasks.

Parents'/Carers' Responsibilities:-

- Parents/Carers should support students with their independent study but accept that their role will become less and less important as students become more responsible and independent.
- Parents/Carers should try to provide a reasonable place where students can work or encourage them to make use of the school's facilities available.
- Parents/Carers should encourage students to meet deadlines.
- Parents/Carers should make it clear to students that they value independent study and support the school in explaining how it can help them progress.
- Parents/Carers should encourage students and praise them when tasks are completed to a good standard and on time.

Students' Responsibilities:-

- Students should carry their Student Planners with them at all times.
- Students should record their independent study tasks in their planner even if they have details of them elsewhere (exercise book or on Google Classroom).
- Students need to accept that deadlines must be kept.
- If students are absent from a lesson, it is their responsibility to find out what they have missed and proactively try and catch up on the work missed. Being away on the day a task was set is not an excuse for not doing it.
- Any problems or issues with tasks that have been set should be attempted to be resolved before the deadline date. Student should actively seek help or assistance from an appropriate member of staff.
- Students should always take pride in their work and in doing their very best.

POLICY	Independent Study (Homework)
Person(s) responsible for updating policy	Deputy Head Teacher
Date approved:	Draft
Date to be reviewed:	Every year
Status:	Statutory

