



Homework and Independent Study Policy

2026 - 2028

Policy issue and updates

<i>Pages</i>	<i>Issue No.</i>	<i>Date</i>
Whole Document – new policy	1	August 2026

The following policy has been approved by the Divisional CEO and Governing Board of Directors.

The policy will be reviewed on a biennial basis unless circumstances arise requiring the policy to be reviewed earlier.

Approved by Divisional CEO: August 2026

Board signatory: 

Planned review: August 2028

1. Policy overview

- 1.1 The homework and independent study policy has been designed to provide a consistent and effective approach to homework and study away from school, taking into consideration the ages, levels of ability and social & economic environment of the students.
- 1.2 Homework will not be an enforced culture; this is due to the sometimes-extreme social factors and disadvantages that affect the majority of our students. Homework will however be an encouraged activity to be given to students at the teacher or Head of Schools' discretion, therefore allowing practitioners to truly address a students' learning needs, catering for the students as individuals – rather than a blanket approach to independent study.
- 1.3 Independent study skills are offered within the full-time timetable to ensure students have the skill set to work independently at home and school.

2. Aims and objectives

- 2.1 We will encourage the use of homework as we believe that homework is beneficial for;
 - Re-enforcing positive attitudes towards work.
 - Encouraging self-organisation and discipline.
 - Developing working relationships between school and home.
 - Preparing students for working-life experiences.
- 2.2 The purposes for setting homework are varied and no list can be truly exhaustive, however some of the most valuable factors for setting homework are;
 - To encourage students to develop their own self-discipline techniques.
 - To support and strengthen new concepts covered within class teaching.
 - To involve parents/carers in the educational life of our students.
- 2.3 We cannot impose rigid structures in relation to the setting of homework if we are to accurately engage in individualised learning, however we will require that the following three principles of homework are adhered to when it is set;

- Homework should be differentiated at all cost to meet the individual needs of the students.
 - Homework should be issued in appropriate quantities.
 - Homework set is achievable with the resources the student has access to at home.
- 2.4 There are many different types of homework, and the teacher should maintain that homework is innovative and engaging and the Head of School should monitor that different types of homework are being set where possible in order to stimulate and sustain student engagement. Some examples of homework setting will be;
- Completion of tasks begun during lessons, originally led by the teacher.
 - Individual planning for study.
 - Researching at home or in libraries using a variety of sources including ICT where possible.
 - Group tasks and discussions where appropriate.
 - Logging on to Individual Skills Plan on the BKSBS website for independent Maths and English.
 - Visiting places of local interest in own time and reporting back.
 - Engaging in activities at home with family and reporting on them.
 - Reading for pleasure and reporting on the text.
- 2.5 The subject teacher will be responsible for the monitoring of completed homework exercises. The Head of School will be responsible for addressing issues of concern regarding repeated failure to complete homework. Discretion and Teacher/Management knowledge of the students' social environment, including economic factors will be taken into consideration when addressing concerns. We aim to set achievable targets for all students, including homework-based targets and will use knowledge-based information to individualise study programs to meet the needs of the students, this will include the variance of homework given to students, based on what is achievable given the social factors, and in some cases extreme disadvantage of our students.

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- 2.6 We value the importance of independent learning skills and will encourage and support all students to achieve success through a mixture of both independent study and classroom-based teaching and learning.
- 2.7 Independent Study work will be set when students cannot attend school for any other reason. The above information will apply to this also. Parents/carers are asked to encourage their child to complete work set when it is being used to support the child when they are missing school and returned within the agreed timescales.