

The Elland Academy Independent Learning Vision

Independent Learning is work that should be completed outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study that is not usually directly supervised by a teacher and it is important in raising student achievement.

Not all Independent Learning is done at home: for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software and equipment) more readily available at the Academy, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at the Academy.

Research tells us that Independent Learning enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills as an integral part of the curriculum, requiring careful planning and integration into the schemes of work in each curriculum area.

Purpose and Aims

Independent Learning enables pupils to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- Access resources not available in the classroom.
- Develop research skills.
- Have an opportunity for independent work.
- Show progress and understanding.
- Provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- Enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.
- Take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Engage parental co-operation and support.
- Create channels for home academy dialogue.

Key Principles underpinning Independent Learning

- Independent Learning is designed to help students reinforce key concepts, process and solidify new information, provide time for extra practice of skills, and reflect on how much they've learned.
- Independent Learning is meant to be a positive experience and to encourage children to learn.
- Independent Learning should not be used as punishment.
- Completed successfully, and are returned with constructive comments from the teacher.
- Independent Learning should have a specific purpose, come with clear instructions, be fairly well matched to a student's abilities, and designed to help develop a student's knowledge and skills.
- Not all Independent Learning is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school.
- Independent Learning enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration

Types of Independent Learning

Independent Learning may be:

- Spellings
- Extended Learning Challenges
- Consolidation of work in class
- Practice - learning by doing
- Research
- Reading
- Interviews
- Drawing
- Using ICT

School's responsibilities

The subject teacher is responsible for setting appropriate Independent Learning and marking it regularly. The school has a fixed Independent Learning timetable with time allocated for different subjects. Students will need to learn to manage their time so that they do some homework each evening. The time devoted to homework should increase as the student progresses through the school.

The role of the pupil

1. To listen to Independent Learning instructions in class.
2. To ensure that Independent Learning is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
3. To attempt all work and give their best.
4. To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

Issued Independent Learning must be completed

If a pupil cannot complete or fails to complete the homework they should discuss the reason with the class teacher

If a pupil fails to complete homework a number of things will happen. These may include

- Allow time after school to complete during enrichment
- Send a letter home
- Contact parents
- Withdraw school rewards eg Trips

Pupils who do their Independent Learning

- Receive praise from teachers
- Recognition for their achievement in school reports
- Receive bonus reward points / House points

The role of the Class Teacher

All teachers should establish a high expectation that Independent Learning will be done by everyone and that failure to do this will be treated seriously.

1. Set Independent Learning according to the timetable.
2. Give full and comprehensive instructions.
3. Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
4. Mark and return all homework promptly.
5. Provide help and support.

The role of the Parents

The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from Independent Learning. To reinforce its value Through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.

Parents can assist by:

1. Negotiating with the student when Independent Learning is to be done as a student's free play is important too.
2. checking the time spent on individual tasks.

3. Ensuring that outside clubs do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure.
4. Checking presentation and content of all Independent Learning being returned to school.
5. Providing the school with information about any problems through the PLA or by contacting the School directly.