

Independent Learning Policy

Policy Statement

My Online Schooling recognises the vital role that independent learning plays in a pupil's overall learning experience.

Independent learning activities are designed for pupils to practise, strengthen, and apply the skills that are developed during lessons.

The My Online Schooling Secondary School uses a blended approach with live lessons facilitating face to face learning with Quality First Teaching and collaborative peer groups and independent learning supporting independent acquisition, practice and revision of knowledge. Independent learning should thus be viewed as an integral aspect of a course, with full participation expected from pupils.

My Online Schooling aims to ensure consistency across the school through clear expectations for teachers and pupils. Effective independent learning involves well-designed assignments that engage and challenge pupils. Pupils are supported by high quality teaching and learning in live lessons and accessible recordings. Accordingly, this policy should not be seen in isolation, but as part of the larger teaching and learning strategy at My Online Schooling.

Assignment Standards

The quality of a pupil's success with independent learning is dependent on the quality of the assignment itself. It is the primary responsibility of the class teacher, but ultimately the Secondary School Leadership Team to ensure that independent learning assignments meet the standards outlined below.

Independent Learning assignments should be:

- Meaningful, purposeful, and engaging
- Appropriate for the level of the subject being studied
- Linked to the curriculum and achievable independently
- Planned with care and consideration to the learning objectives of the course
- Assigned consistently, where tasks will add to learning and promote pupil progress
- Differentiated for pupils who require additional support or challenge
- Mindful of pupils' time

Roles in the School Community

Teachers

- Develop and assign activities aligned with the standards listed above
- Upload assignments to Canvas in a timely manner
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- If required, deliver substantive feedback to pupils in a timely manner
 - Ideally feedback should be given to pupils within 1 week of the assignment due date, however, this is dependent on the nature of the task
- Ensure feedback is easily accessible for pupils and parents/carers on Canvas through grades and assignment comments
 - It should be noted that not all assignments will be given attainment grades. Some assignments will be graded as complete or incomplete; however, this should be limited to tasks where feedback is not relevant e.g. pupils watching a video in preparation for a lesson.
 - Teachers are encouraged to make use of self and peer feedback. Assignments should be marked clearly so pupils are aware of what feedback format they should expect.
- Ensure pupils have access to resources (e.g. classroom recordings) so they are able to complete assignments independently
- Track and monitor pupil progress on independent learning assignments and use this to inform adaptations to future lessons to ensure all pupil needs are met
- Monitor completion of independent learning assignments with the intention of incorporating this into reports

Pupils

- Do your best with each piece of work
- Complete your learning assignment and hand it in on Canvas on time
 - Typically, assignments will be due 1 week after the work is assigned, however, this is dependent on the nature of the task
 - All assignments should be submitted via the Canvas class page, following any submission guidelines given by your teacher
- Before you ask for help if you find the independent learning task too difficult, consider the three Bs -- Brain, Book, Buddy
- Use recorded lessons or resources provided by your teacher to complete your independent learning assignment
- If you know that you will be submitting your independent learning assignment late, you should message your teacher on Canvas to let them know
- Submit original work and cite all sources

Parents & Carers

- Utilise the Parent Portal and Canvas regularly to monitor your child's progress and assignments
- Support your child by helping them to plan and manage their time wisely
- Help your child establish a routine, setting aside time for independent learning tasks to be completed and ensuring that it is seen as a priority
- Offer encouragement, help and advice to your child without completing the assignment for them
- Encourage your child to meet deadlines

Exemptions

At My Online Schooling we understand and appreciate that pupils may experience anxiety, stress and mental health challenges which can make completing independent learning assignments difficult. While completing all independent learning assignments is recommended to have a high quality, balanced education, we are committed to ensuring we are supporting all pupils who may struggle to complete assignments.

Exemptions or extensions for individual assignments can be granted by the class teacher. It is at the discretion of the teacher to accept or deny requests.

If a pupil requires an independent learning exemption for a significant period of time i.e. a month or term, their parent/carer should submit an exemption application on the Parent Portal. This will be reviewed and accepted by the Secondary School Leadership Team and Inclusion Team, and the pupil's teachers will be notified.

Pupils with an active Independent Learning Exemption will be listed on the Independent Learning Exemption Register.

By not completing Independent Learning, families understand that the pupil's teachers may not be able to assess their progress and the pupil may not cover some topics at the same level of depth as pupils who are completing independent learning.

Possible Implications of Non-completion

Independent learning is a crucial part of the My Online Schooling learning experience. Not completing assignments will have a negative impact on the quality of a pupil's education. For this reason, we will implement the following actions for incomplete assignments:

- Consistently not completing independent learning assignments will impact negatively on a pupil's effort and Independent Learning grades, and may negatively impact a pupil's attainment grade
- Parents will be notified in a supportive capacity of consistent unsubmitted assignments