



Ark Boulton
Academy

“Growing together, reaching higher”

HOMework & INDEPENDENT LEARNING POLICY

2017 - 2018

Date of last review:	September 2017	Review period:	1 Year
Date of next review:	June 2018	Owner:	Steph Stringer

POLICY INFORMATION

Named personnel with designated responsibility for

Academic Year	Designated Senior Person	Deputy Designated Senior Person	Nominated Governor	Chair of Governors
2015/16	Daniel Richards	Caroline Entwistle		Julie Griffiths

Policy Review Dates

Review Date	Changes Made	By Whom
June 2016	Policy created	Julie Griffiths
September 2017	Updated to include new EKO's	Steph Stringer

Ratification by LGB

Academic Year	Date of Ratification	Chair of Governors
September 2016		Julie Griffiths

Dates of staff training for this academic year (if applicable)

Academic Year 2016/17		
Date	Course Title	Staff
18 th September 2017	Using EKO's	S Stringer

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1. RATIONALE

At Ark Boulton Academy we are aware that homework activities provide a valuable opportunity for students to both consolidate and extend their learning. Independent learning or homework is any work or activity which students are asked to do outside lesson time either on their own or with parents/carers. The 'Independent Learning' policy has been created in collaboration with a number of stakeholders and is informed by DFE guidance to create an opportunity for students to broaden their knowledge and skills – supporting the curriculum. Additionally, the 'Independent Learning' policy should offer the opportunity for parents to engage in their child's learning, ensuring that the curriculum is open and accessible to the home. At the Ark Boulton Academy we believe that the needs of all students should be met, accommodating a wide range of learning styles.

“ Well organised *homework*
can play a vital role in raising
standards of achievement ”

2. AIMS

- Encourage students to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study and research effectively on their own.
- To support the aims of the academy in improving attainment and achievement.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed at academy.
- Extend academy learning.
- Sustain the involvement of the home in the management of pupil's learning.
- Support the values and character education of the academy.
- Ultimately, the role of independent work is to ensure that all students at Ark Boulton Academy are able to be inspired, achieve and excel in all that they do.
- Provide preparation opportunities so that students can independently explore themes in readiness for the units of work they are about to study.
- Streamline home learning activities so that parents and guardians are empowered to support their children.

Long term aims

- Resourced after-academy homework clubs will be made available to ensure equality of opportunity.
- Home learning area of academy website showing all Essential Knowledge Organisers.
- Parent sessions to teach strategies for supporting students to complete home learning.
- Dedicated area of the academy library stocked with stretch list materials.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- Students should be set self-quizzing home learning activities every week from each subject. This should be set in line with the academy's home learning timetable.

- Students should spend a minimum of 30 minutes per subject self-quizzing in their dedicated self-quizzing book
- Form tutors systematically check for completion during daily equipment checks and issue students with C1 if the quality of work does not meet academy expectations.
- Persistent incompleteness of homework should result in contact with parents by the most appropriate member of staff in academy.
- Parental concerns about homework should follow the route of form tutor to achievement leader for year group; to senior leader responsible for quality assurance.
- Subject Leads and Faculty Directors should develop, monitor and evaluate the quality of Essential Knowledge Organisers to ensure that self-quizzing activities are enhancing student learning.

4. PRINCIPLES

- Self-quizzing activities should meet the needs of all students.
- Self-quizzing activities should take into account a range of learning styles.
- Self-quizzing activities should be planned for each subject in correspondence with the Essential Knowledge Organiser designed as part of the Medium Term Plan.
- Stretch lists should be made available for each year group so that students have opportunities for further reading.
- Self-quizzing activities should be monitored daily to ensure quality and regular completion.
- A timetable and description of the homework set by the academy will be made available on the academy's website.

5. THE AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK

Ark Boulton Academy will publish a self-quizzing timetable on the website. Each student will be issued with a copy of this for their own self-quizzing books. Students and parents can access this from the academy website. Students will also have a copy in their Key 2 Success. They are expected to store the Essential Knowledge Organisers for each subject in this. The time devoted to homework should increase as the student progresses through the academy. Students in Years 7-9 should typically have one or two pieces of self-quizzing per night for: English, Maths, Science, PE, History, Geography, RE, Modern Foreign Languages (French), which should take at least 30 minutes each.

Students in Year 10-11 should have between an hour and an hour and a half per subject, per week and may receive additional revision materials to support ongoing assessment and preparations for examinations. Students are encouraged in addition, to read as widely as possible around their chosen subjects to broaden their knowledge. Each subject should provide each student with a stretch reading list.

Subjects are able to set additional home learning activities to support student progress. Any additional home learning activities that are set should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete. This should be quality assured by Heads of Subject in co-planning and completion monitored by teachers. Sanctions should be given for incomplete or unacceptable work.

All students are expected to read for 30 minutes each night. This should be a challenging and age-appropriate book. A list of suitable book titles has been issued by the English Department and is printed in the back of the Key 2 Success.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES

Students

- Students should always carry their 'Key to Success' with them.
- Students should record the homework set even if they have written it in detail in their Key 2 Success.
- Students need to accept that deadlines must be kept.
- If students are absent, they are still expected to complete self-quizzing. Being away on the day that homework is set is not an excuse for not doing it.
- Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary, students should see the member of staff concerned for help.
- Students should take a pride in doing their best.

Organisation of homework

All students have a 'Key to Success' which they should carry with them at all times to record their homework. Tutors and parents/carers are asked to check and sign these on a weekly basis.

Academy's responsibilities

- The subject teacher is responsible for setting appropriate additional home learning activities. She/he should check that students are recording details of homework set in their organisers.
- The form tutor is responsible for the daily quality assurance of self-quizzing activities based on criteria provided. Incomplete or unacceptable self-quizzing attempts must be issued with a C1.
- Directors of Faculty are responsible for ensuring that all teachers in their department are setting appropriate homework regularly and that Essential Knowledge Organisers are robust. This will be checked as part of the Academy's QA process.
- Achievement leaders will track and monitor the distribution and completion of homework within their year group.

Parents'/Carers' role in homework

- Parents/carers should support students with their homework but accept that their role will become less and less important as students become more responsible and independent.
- Parents/carers should try and provide a reasonable place where students can work or encourage them to make use of the academy's facilities.
- Parents/carers should encourage students to meet homework deadlines.
- If parents/carers feel that insufficient or too much homework is being set, they should contact the Form Tutor who will investigate the situation.
- Parents/carers should make it clear to students that they value homework and support the Academy in explaining how it can help them to progress.
- Parents/carers should encourage students and praise them when homework is completed.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT STATEMENT

We will do all we can to ensure that this policy does not discriminate, directly or indirectly. We shall do this through regular monitoring and evaluation of our policies. On review we shall assess and consult relevant stakeholders on the likely impact of our policies on the promotion of all aspects of equality, as laid down in the Equality Act (2010). This will include, but not necessarily be limited to: race; gender; sexual orientation; disability; ethnicity; religion; cultural beliefs and pregnancy/maternity. We will use an appropriate Equality Impact Assessment to monitor the impact of all our policies and the policy may be amended as a result of this assessment.

- The policy should be read in conjunction with the Ark Boulton Feedback Policy.
- This policy will be reviewed annually.

Steph Stringer.

Director of Humanities and Home Learning Lead.