

## Oasis Academy Oldham: Home learning Policy

### Rationale

At OAO we believe that a child's learning should be in partnership between home and school, and homework is viewed as a valuable part of a student's learning journey. It is important that students have frequent and extended opportunities to consolidate their learning and develop as independent learners outside of school. Our aim is for homework to be structured, purposeful and coherent for all concerned. Homework at OAO should broaden, consolidate, extend, or enhance the learning experience.

Research shows that homework has a positive impact on supporting student progress, self-regulation, and independence. The purpose of this policy is to create a **broad and consistent** whole Academy approach to the way in which homework is set. Our goal is to ensure that homework is set frequently, without onerous work for staff. Therefore, allowing staff to dedicate themselves to responsive planning, informed by feedback and assessment.

### The purpose of homework

- Setting homework is part of the Teachers' Standards and is outlined in the following way: *'Teachers should set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired.'*
- Homework should be used to consolidate learning of the curriculum, extend learning, deepen understanding and prepare pupils for further study in the future. Research shows that homework that is linked to classroom work tends to be more effective (EEF 2021)
- To support the retention and retrieval of key knowledge, concepts, and skills.
- Homework requires lifelong learning skills such as organisation, time management, resilience and encourages students to develop their confidence and self-discipline to work independently- all of which we promote at OAO to help our students to develop as well-rounded individuals.
- Practise skills – learning-by-doing, thus affording students the opportunity to make greater progress.
- Provide opportunities to develop the partnership of student/parents/carers/teacher to support their child's progress

### How homework will be set

The Academy has a homework timetable with different subjects on different evenings. Teachers will set homework and send a notification on 'Teams', which will automatically add this to the student's online calendar. Students will need to learn to check their calendars daily and manage their time so that they complete homework each evening.

### The nature of homework set and why

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when setting homework there are several points to consider:

- The nature and type of homework changes throughout a student's school career.
- Amount and frequency of homework will differ according to the student's ability level.
- Homework should not cause undue stress on the student, family, or the teacher.
- It will not necessarily always come in the form of a written task.

At OAO, we endeavour to use evidence-informed practice and research in order to provide the most effective types of homework tasks that will enhance our students' learning experience.

|                     | Homework activity/tasks could include the following:   | How the activities/tasks will help students to become better learners:  |
|---------------------|--|---|
| <b>Read it:</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reading novels</li> <li>- Reading key extracts of texts/literature</li> <li>- Reading articles</li> <li>- Accessing bespoke reading through 'Robust Reading'</li> </ul> | <p><i>'Language and literacy provide us with the <b>building blocks</b> not just for academic success, but for fulfilling careers and rewarding lives'.</i></p> <p>(Education Endowment Foundation)</p> <p><b>Reading</b> helps to improve vocabulary, communication, grammar and writing skills.</p>   |
| <b>Spell it:</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Spelling and vocabulary tests</li> <li>- Exploration of the etymology of key words</li> </ul>   | <p>Spelling tasks help students to be able to spell key words within their subjects correctly. The more practice that students have at spellings, the better chance they have at remembering them. Being able to spell words correctly is something that will help students all through their life.</p> |
| <b>Apply it:</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Extended written responses to a question</li> <li>- Producing a piece of work which will demonstrate understanding of a topic or concept</li> </ul>                     | <p>These tasks might require students to demonstrate how well they have understood and learnt key things from their lessons. They might be extended written responses to a question which require students to apply their knowledge and understanding.</p>  |
| <b>Retrieve it:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge Organisers</li> <li>- Quizzes</li> <li>- Self-testing</li> <li>- Flashcards</li> <li>- Graphic Organisers</li> <li>- Learning grids</li> </ul>                | <p>These are tasks which prompt students to recall/remember key information. The more we encourage students to retrieve information, the more chance we have of it 'sticking' and remaining in the long-term memory for students to retrieve with ease.</p>   |
| <b>Practise it:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Practice of skills</li> <li>- Rehearsal of lines</li> <li>- Practice of dance moves</li> <li>- Music practice for performance pieces</li> </ul>                         | <p>Practice makes perfect! Repeatedly practising something eventually helps students to remember and to master something to an excellent standard.</p>  |

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|                | - Use of platforms such as 'Hagerty Maths' and BBC Bitesize  |  |
| <b>Pod it:</b> | - <b>GCSEPod</b> - An extensive study support platform which provides students with access to additional content including film clips, assessment materials linked to specific subjects and topics | GCSEPod is an online resource which contains lots of mini film pods linked to most subjects and key topics. Teachers can use them to test their students, enhance revision and monitor their engagement. Students can self-test, build knowledge and monitor their progress. |

### Time to be Spent Completing Homework or self-directed study

It is an expectation that the time devoted to homework increases as the student progresses through the Academy. Students in Years 7-9 will receive from core subjects, one piece of homework weekly and one piece of homework from other subjects in line with the homework timetable. In Years 10 and 11, the volume of homework set may increase to two pieces per week from core subjects and 1-2 pieces per week from each of their option subjects. Homework will be adapted where necessary to meet individual needs.

Based on current good practice and previous DfE guidance, we endeavour to follow this guidance on the amount of time that we would advise our students to spend on their homework/self-directed study.

These guidelines are listed below:

Year 7 & 8: Approximately 90 minutes per day

Year 9: Approximately 1 – 2 hours per day

Year 10 & 11: Approximately 1.5 – 2.5 hours per day

### Key responsibilities

#### **Role of the Class Teacher**

- To set time aside during lessons to provide an explanation of homework tasks, answer questions and direct the students to materials that they could use to assist them with completing their homework.
- To set up regular homework in an easily followed routine.
- To set homework that aligns with the faculty and whole school learning policy.
- To ensure any homework set is appropriate for the age/key stage of student, purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught.
- To allow enough time for the homework to be completed to an excellent standard, reminding students to question if the standard of their homework 'Is excellent yet?' (This includes avoiding overnight homework whenever possible.)
- To reward and praise pupils who regularly complete homework tasks.
- Provide additional support with homework if requested by the pupil or parent – for example, paper copies of resources
- To check the completion of homework and provide appropriate feedback.

Faculty Leaders are responsible for ensuring that all teachers in their faculty area are consistently setting appropriate homework in accordance with the timetable and that it is used to inform their planning. This should be checked regularly as part of the Quality Assurance process.

### **Role of the Parents/Carers**

The Academy asks that parents: -

- Support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework and completes it to a high standard.
- Make every attempt to provide a reasonable place where their child can work or encourage them to make use of the Academy's facilities including the library.
- Ensure that their child checks their calendar daily and meets all homework deadlines.
- Encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework.
- Become actively involved and support their child with homework activities.
- Make it clear that they value the importance of homework, and that they support the Academy by explaining how it can help them make progress.
- Contact their child's Pastoral Tutor if they feel their child needs more support with homework so that appropriate support can be provided.
- Notify the school of any issues or problems that may prevent the completion of homework.

### **Role of the Students**

The Academy expects all students to: -

- Listen to homework instructions in class, record the homework set and check 'Teams' daily for any notifications sent by the teacher.
- Meet the deadline for homework completion
- Find out and complete any work missed through absence. Absence is not an excuse for not completing work
- Communicate appropriately with the class teacher if they are having any difficulties with the work, well before the deadline
- Take pride in doing their best and complete all homework to a high standard.

### **Rewards and non-completion of homework**

At OAO, we believe that students should be rewarded for effort and application of their learning at home. That means we will praise continued good effort and reward pupils who apply themselves successfully to the homework set. We will also employ sanctions, where appropriate, for failure to produce what is expected and an opportunity to complete outstanding pieces.

### **Reviewing the policy**

The homework policy will be reviewed annually. Where significant changes to the policy are felt to be required, proposals will be presented to the governing body and parents consulted.