

Self-Study Policy

Reviewed and Updated September 2023

Vision

At Noel-Baker Academy, it is our vision and belief that all our pupils are entitled to the very best depth and breadth of provision. We are proud of our pupils and our community and are determined we will enable our pupils to be the very best that they can be. We have high expectations of all pupils and encourage pupils to be independent learners and develop their love of learning in a supportive and nurturing environment.

Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- To document and communicate our expectations around self-study.
- To outline what is expected from all stakeholders in relation to self-study.
- To ensure consistency of approach throughout the Academy.
- To ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- To encourage children to develop the confidence, independence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study on their own and prepare them for the next phase of education.

Why is Self-Study Important?

Self-study is an important part of our retrieval practice strategy and an extension of our schemes of learning, helping students to remember what they have been taught. It also helps to ensure independent working becomes a habit and a key part of our culture at NBA, a skill especially important at KS4 and one linked to high outcomes. In addition, self-study supports the following:

- Students to develop the practice of independent learning. This way of working is vital at the later stages of secondary education and after.
- It gives students the opportunity to apply their passion and gain a deeper insight into the subject.

- Promotes students' self-discipline and personal responsibility for learning and organisation.
- Better retention of factual knowledge and increased understanding.
- Gives opportunities to practise and develop skills.
- Allows parents to become involved in their child's learning.
- Is valuable in ensuring students' progress and raising achievement.

What does the Research tell us?

- Homework has a positive impact (+5 months progress), particularly with pupils in secondary schools compared to those who do not.
- Studies involving digital technology typically have greater impact (+ 6 months).
- Homework linked to class work tends to be more effective.
- Homework links to testing affect, the finding that taking a test on previously studied material leads to better retention than does restudying that material for an equivalent amount of time. Tests seem to activate retrieval processes that facilitate the learning of study material and cause knowledge to be stored more effectively in long-term memory.
- Homework plays a critical role in the formation of positive learning beliefs and behaviours, including a belief in one's academic ability and higher expectations and aspirations for one's future.
- Eliminating homework would do children and their families a huge disservice: we know that children's learning beliefs have a powerful impact on their academic outcomes, and that through homework, parents and teachers can have a profound influence on the development of positive beliefs.

Responsibilities

Student

Responsible for:

- Completing self-study tasks set by their teacher, meeting the deadline given.
- To attempt all work to the best of their ability.
- To inform their class/form teacher of any difficulties that arise.
- To attend homework club if support is needed prior to the deadline.
- To attend supported study sessions when required due to non-completion of self-study.

Subject teacher

Responsible for:

- Setting tasks that promote the acquisition of knowledge and understanding in subjects.
- Setting tasks which have a clear criteria, are specific and do not disadvantage students (ie, by requiring access to a wide range of resources).
- Moderate the submission of self-study tasks and address non-completion by identifying any barriers to non-completion.
- Praise and encourage students who have a good work ethos and complete self-study well.

Curriculum Directors

Responsible for:

- Monitoring the setting of self-study in their subject or faculty.
- Ensure that self-study tasks are effective and follow the agreed protocols.
- Monitor the non-completion of self-study in their subject and sanction appropriately.

Heads of House

Responsible for:

- Monitoring the completion of self-study across their House.
- Identify pupils who are not completing self-study on a regular basis.
- Speak with pupils to identify potential barriers to learning and seek to address these issues.
- Liaise with parents / subject teachers / CD's when necessary.
- Contribute to parental meetings where appropriate.

Associate Deputy Headteacher

The Associate Deputy Headteacher responsible for self-study is Mrs Sarah-Louisa Leach, who has responsibility for the following:

- Ensure clear communication regarding the setting of self-study to pupils, parents and staff.
- Guide staff through professional development and research to the effective use of self-study.
- Ensure that effective monitoring and tracking procedures are in place.

Governor

Responsible for:

- Monitoring the provision of self-study across the academy.
- Work with the relevant leaders to determine the strategic development of the self-study policy and provision in the academy.
- Ensuring that the school has effective procedures for ensuring that parents/carers are informed about self-study.

Parents/carers

Noel-Baker Academy believes that a close working relationship with parents is vital in ensuring that students are successful and achieve the very best.

As a parent/carers we would advise that you –

- Provide a peaceful place in which your child can complete their self-study, or encourage them to attend study support clubs, which are available as part of our co-curricular offer.
- Make it clear to your child that you value self-study.
- To offer support and guidance if necessary.
- Encourage your child and praise them when they have completed self-study.
- Expect deadlines to be met and check that they are.
- To support your child with organisation and time management.

Parental involvement in the successful implementation of the self-study policy will be further encouraged by:-

- Providing an overview of how self-study tasks are set for each subject on the website.
- Communication sent home to support with self-study and to notify you when your child has not completed the required work for self-study and we have concerns.
- Support available at parent's evenings.
- Sharing information at parent engagement evenings arranged throughout the academic year.

Self-Study Tasks

Self-study tasks should:-

- Be relevant, meaningful and set for a purpose.
- Be manageable for pupils in terms of time and resources.
- Be explained clearly to students so that they know what they need to do and how the work will be assessed.

- Be manageable for staff in terms of marking.
- At KS3 the majority of self-study tasks will be a retrieval quiz that can be accessed directly through Satchel One.
- At KS4 there will be mixture of quizzes and subject specific related tasks.

Self-Study Overview

Day the Self-Study is set	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Day the Self-Study is due
Monday	History and Geography	History and Geography	History and Geography	History/ Geography	History/ Geography	Sunday 12.00 pm
	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	
	English	English	English	English	English	
	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science	
	Spanish	French	Spanish	Option 1	Option 1	
	Latin and RS on rotation every fortnight			Option 2	Option 2	
	Art/DT/Drama/Music/CS on rotation throughout the year			Option 3	Option 3	
	PE – Weekly goal of attending a co-curricular club					
Date self-study will begin	18/09/23	25/09/23	02/10/23	25/09/23	18/09/23	

What Self-Study tasks will be set

Self-Study will be set via the platform Satchel One. Satchel One actively involves parents in the learning process by giving them insight into self-study assignments and all the information they need to support learning from home. Satchel One also supports parents by:

- Sending parents notifications surrounding self-study
- Allowing Parents to view self-study tasks and any accompanying resources
- Empowering parents to take an active role in their child's education

Sanctions

If your child does not complete the self-study task within the weeklong deadline, the following sanctions will be put in place -

Stage 1 – Self-study deadline missed – 25 minute Supported Study session. School comms message sent. (If students have a P6 then they will be expected to stay for 10 minutes until 4.00 pm)

If on the rare occasion students do not complete their 25-minute sanction, then they will receive further sanctions as detailed below -

Stage 2 – Failure to attend Supported Study Session – 45 minute Supported Study Session the following week. School comms sent.

Stage 3 – Failure to attend two Supported Study Sessions– Letter sent home and communication with home.

Stage 4 – Failure to attend three or more Supported Study Sessions– C2 sanction for the day and detention until 4.00 pm.

Rewards

Completion of self-study is an expectation. Students who regularly complete all self-study tasks will be rewarded randomly throughout the year.

Support available

Not all self-study has to be completed at home. Self-study refers to any work completed outside of lessons. For some students, who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available in the Academy, it is necessary to carry out the task/s at school. As part of our co-curricular offer there is a Supported Study session available after school (3.5-3.50pm) on a Wednesday and Friday for students to complete self-study. It remains the student's responsibility to ensure they make the most use of these facilities in a timely manner to allow self-study to be completed by the deadline.

Monitoring

Mrs Sarah-Louisa Leach (Associate Deputy Headteacher – Quality of Education and Personal Development)) will review this policy annually. It will also be updated if any changes to the information are made during the year.

The governing board will approve the policy.