

Date: October 2026

Date for review (annually): October 2027

Independent Learning Policy



Rationale

At John O' Gaunt School we believe that independent learning plays a valuable part in a student's education. The development of independent study skills is vital in helping students move effectively through their life-long learning journey. Independent learning supports students in knowing more, doing more and remembering more.

Independent Learning (IL) at John O' Gaunt School

We will commit to:

1. Regular, appropriate, and purposeful IL will be set that matches the needs of the class and the individual; this will link to classroom learning.
2. Use of online platforms such as 'Seneca' and 'Sparx' to support student's IL; use of these will fully comply with GDPR regulations.
3. Ensure that all students can access the work and are supported in producing IL to the best of their abilities.
4. Provide appropriate information and access to resources to ensure that parents and carers can support their child with their IL. 'Class Charts' is used by all teachers for this purpose, Independent Learning will be coded as 'IL' on 'Class Charts'.
5. Log all IL as completed or not completed on 'Class Charts', rewarding students who have completed with a positive IL achievement point and give a negative IL point to all those students who have not completed their work.
6. Contact home through a phone call or email will be made to parents/carers if there are concerns a student is not engaging in completing their IL.
7. Reporting on your child's attitude towards independent learning via our termly reports.
8. We may also use Microsoft Teams to support IL; students will be directed to TEAMS if required, via a link on 'Class Charts'.*
9. Offer an IL club after school from 3:10pm to 4:10pm where students can access resources and use IT facilities (Tuesday – Thursday). Arrangements will need to be made in terms of transport home – there is a late bus to some areas.
10. *In remote learning scenarios, where all work is completed at home due to school closure, students will be expected to log in daily to Class Charts and Microsoft Teams and complete all tasks set.

Parents/carers will commit to:

1. Check 'Class Charts' for communication from teachers, including achievement points for completion, and non-completion through a negative IL point. You should have a parental login, **please contact your child's tutor in the first instance if you have any issues accessing 'Class Charts'**.
2. Support your child in completing their IL and being organised to ensure it is handed in.
3. Communicate with teachers when there are barriers to IL completion to support your child on overcoming those barriers.

Students will commit to:

1. Check 'Class Charts' every day and complete IL on time, if you miss a task set you are still expected to complete it unless your teacher says otherwise.
2. Complete IL to the best of your ability looking after all paper IL.
3. Organise your school bag, packing the night before, to ensure IL is handed in on time. It is your responsibility to find your teacher if for any reason you were not in lesson.
4. If you failed to complete the IL task you will receive a negative IL.
5. If you continue to not complete IL tasks after your teacher has contacted home, your parents/carers may be invited in to school to meet with the appropriate Head of Faculty/class teacher.

Independent Learning Timetable:

- Core subjects will set IL once a week, these days are fixed to avoid regular IL being set on the same day.
- Non-core subjects will set **at least** one piece of IL per term for Key Stage 3 and at Key Stage 4 will set IL **at least** once a fortnight. This is to ensure the IL is purposeful and relevant to the students learning.
- Students should spend the appropriate amount of time on each piece so that it is of high quality.

It is good practice for students to complete IL tasks on the day it is given, as this helps them manage their workload. There will be occasions where this is not possible, and we encourage students to plan when they will complete each task to avoid missing deadlines.

The timetable looks like this:

Key Stage 3, week A & B		
Monday	Science	Non-core subjects will set one piece of IL at least once a term.
Tuesday	Mathematics	
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday	English	

Key Stage 4, week A & B		
Monday	Science	Option subjects will set IL at least once a fortnight.
Tuesday	Mathematics	
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday	English	

Monitoring and evaluation

It is the responsibility of the subject teacher to set IL on 'Class Charts' in line with the policy.

- IL completed to the expected standard and on time will be awarded with a positive achievement point on 'Class Charts'.
- IL not completed will result in a negative IL point recorded to your child's 'class charts' total, this will be communicated on 'Class Charts'.
- The class teacher may contact home through a phone call or email if they are concerned a student is not engaging in completing their IL to make parents/carers aware they are not completing work independently.
- Faculty Leaders will check the quality and regularity of the IL set in their subject area through monitoring and inspection.
- Tutors will support students and help monitor their overall approach to, and success with, their IL.
- Senior Leaders will oversee the monitoring and quality assurance process for the subject areas under their line management.