



Acle Academy- Home Learning Policy
Parental guide- Frequently Asked Questions



Q: What is home learning?

A- *'Home learning' is any work or activity which students are expected to do outside lesson time.*

Q: Why is it important to set home learning?

To encourage pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation that will enable them to study on their own. It also helps pupils develop independent learning skills and allows them the time to consolidate core knowledge. It is an opportunity to involve parents and carers in the management of students learning and keep them informed about the work their child is doing. Finally, it allows pupils to develop self-discipline, time-management & organisational skills and to refine research and study skills.

Q: What is the point of issuing home learning?

There is a significant body of research which establishes that home learning is incredibly effective at ensuring pupils develop the right skills for becoming independent learners, organised and efficient with time management and serves as ideal preparation for their GCSE exams. In a report conducted by the Education Endowment Foundation, it was established that the completion of home learning at secondary level can add on an additional 5 months progress onto a child's learning (EEF, 2016). We also believe that students who are successful at GCSE level are those who have highly developed independent learning skills and have the capacity to lead the learning process through their questions and ideas enabled through home learning. Additionally, home learning is used to support classwork. It is designed to help all students become independent learners and more importantly form a base of good work ethic which can be built on in future years. Educational research supports the theory that there is a direct link between students spending time on home learning and their achievement in secondary school Therefore, Acle Academy regards home learning as an integral part of the learning process.

Acle Academy's home learning policy has been set out with a clear vision and all teachers are aware of the high standard we expect of the home learning set. Concurrently, if the home learning is rushed or not completed sufficiently then it doesn't benefit the pupils and won't help develop them as learners. Therefore, we have high standards in this respect to the quality of home learning we expect to receive from students. All of this is outlined below.

Q: How will I know my child has home learning due in?

Home learning is to be recorded on ClassCharts which is available to all staff parents/carers and students.

<https://www.classcharts.com/account/login>

This will enable students and parents/carers and staff to track who has set home learning, the quality and frequency of home learning and who is doing home learning. The Class Charts app is an incredibly convenient way to stay informed of your child's home learning and their behaviour within school. If you log into the application either on your phone or through the website under the parent log-in, you can easily view what home learning your child has set and when it is due. You can additionally read the details of this home learning and see any files which might be attached to help them. If you have any trouble accessing your log in details for Class Charts then please give us a call or email your child's form tutor and we can provide these details to you.

Additional resources and materials may also be set on Google Classroom. Each subject area has its own Google Classroom where additional resources, revision materials and lesson plans are shared.

Q: What will the home learning actually involve?

It will vary based on the year group of your child and the nature of the subject, some examples may include:

- GCSE practice questions.
- Extended writing.
- Self-assessment.
- Google Forms quizzes
- Online education platform-e.g. Seneca or a Quizzing website
- Formal report on a topic completed to evaluate their learning from the classroom.
- Maths home learning online (Mathswatch or MyMaths).
- Flipped learning (where pupils read ahead on a topic before the lesson to give them prior learning).
- Engagement in Reading and schemes to enhance pupil literacy.
- Discussions at home with family members on certain topics (especially in CC).

We have a whole range of materials available online and this includes the school revision zone for GCSE pupils. This has revision materials and exam preparation for pupils to complete independently. Additionally, each class for every subject will have their own Google Classroom. Work will also be set on here and resources can be downloaded from here as well.

Q: How often will my child be set home learning?

It will depend upon their year group. Generally, as a rule we would expect each pupil to have approximately the below amount of home learning:

Year group	Subject minimum expectations	Whole school	Duration of assignment
Year 7	Once every 8 learning hours	Effectively 3/ 4 assignments per week	30 mins- 1 hour
Year 8	Once every 6 learning hours	Effectively 4/5 assignments per week	30 mins- 1 hour
Year 9	Once every 6 learning hours	Effectively 4/5 assignments per week	1- 2 hours
Year 10	Once every 4 learning hours	5 assignments per week	1- 2 hours
Year 11	Once every 4 learning hours	5 assignments per week	1- 2 hours
Year 11 Revision	Once a week		

The above has been thought out to allow pupils to gradually build up to a level of independent study which will greatly assist them in the self-regulation needed for success in their GCSEs.

Q- What's the best way for my child to stay organised with their home learning?

A- *They should check classcharts every day for home learning set. Classcharts organises the home learning tasks for them and this is presented in a list sorted either by 'date set' or 'date due'. Pupils can then tick assignments*

off when they are completed. It is the responsibility of all pupils to frequently check their Classcharts account for home learning. Pupils can also email their teachers or communicate on Google Classroom if there are any issues with a particular piece of home learning. It would help pupils if parents also frequently checked Classcharts to remind pupils of pending home learning assignments. Pupils should then complete the home learning to the best of their ability and hand the home learning in on time. They should also understand that if a piece of home learning fails to meet expectations that students will be required to re-submit the work.

Q: What happens if my child forgets their home learning on the day it is due?

A: We know that sometimes there are occasions where a pupil might forget their home learning, USB stick or simply not have time to complete a piece of home learning to a high standard. We are all human, and sometimes this happens.

If a pupil forgets their home learning on the day it is due, then we will issue a behaviour point on Class Charts under the 'missed Home learning deadline'. This will not directly lead to a detention. The purpose of this is three-fold.

- 1- It will allow you, as the parent, to see that an overdue now exists so you can discuss this with your child.
- 2- It will give allow the pupil a 24-hour extension to hand in the home learning before a further sanction is issued.
- 3- It will allow our pastoral team to notice over time if there are patterns to pupils missing home learning deadline and we can intervene to help those pupils who struggle with their organisational skills.

Q: What happens if my child misses the extension deadline?

A: If your child then misses the subsequent home learning extension deadline then a further event will be recorded on Class Charts which carries a –negative score (missed Home learning extension). This will then additionally come with the sanction of a detention. The behaviour point will make clear when the detention is due to take place and this will be recorded on each child's Classcharts detention profile. The pupil will then be expected to complete the overdue piece of work in this detention and hand it in to the teacher.

Q: What happens if my child is consistently missing home learning extension deadlines?

Students who repeatedly fail to complete home learning will be placed on the home learning report system to help support them with this. Mr Sayce, form tutors and the behaviour support team will monitor the frequency and circumstances of missed homework and will put plans in place to support students. We will ensure we communicate with parents and work collaboratively to help your child develop habits to help them complete their home learning.

Q: What happens if my child submits a piece of home learning, but the teacher isn't happy with the standard of it?

A: As outlined above when discussing the purpose of home learning, home learning is only meaningful and purposeful if it is completed to a high standard. If it is clear and obvious that a piece of home learning has been rushed or not completed to an acceptable standard, then teachers may use their professional discretion to award a further behaviour point on Class Charts 'Inadequate / Insufficient Home learning'. This also carries a -1 but with no detention.

If teachers receive home learning that is either inadequate or insufficient, they will then grant the pupil a further 24-hour extension to get it up to standard which is deemed acceptable. If the home learning is not completed to an acceptable standard after the extension, then a lunchtime detention will be set for them to complete it accordingly.

Q: How can we complete the home learning if we do not have access to a computer at home?

In the first instance it is worth remembering that not all home-learning activities will require a computer. Many can be hand-written and completed in your child's exercise books. Additionally, if you let us know about any access issues, we can ask teachers to print out copies of work to support your child.

Please remember that Classcharts can be accessed via any smart device such as a phone or tablet and does not require a computer.

Additionally, if you have no access to a device for home learning, please contact the school who can work to support you with this. We have a limited number of devices and the potential to loan these to you in order to support pupils.

If you have issues with accessing the internet at home please contact the school office as we have the potential to loan devices or materials which can help boost internet connectivity.

Q- Will the school recognise the hard work my child puts into their home learning?

Yes- House points will be given for students who have made a special effort with a particular piece of home learning. Additionally, where pupils have gone above and beyond with their home learning their teacher might opt to award them 'Star of the Week'.

Q: What if my child has been identified by the school as needing additional academic support?

A: Your child's classroom teacher should be differentiating the home learning provided so it is suitable for all pupils to complete, regardless of their ability or educational needs. Furthermore, if your child is struggling to comprehend or complete the work then they are welcome to sign up for the late bus on Tuesday and attend home learning club which is led in Inspire by our SEND team. Any concerns about the suitability of the home learning can also be discussed with Ms Frary, the school's SENCO. Finally, you could contact your child's tutor or Mr Sayce (Director of Progress) if you believe your child needs further support with their home learning.

Q: What if I want additional home learning for my child?

A: There are lots of ways to extend your child's learning at home! Please have a conversation with your child's teacher, tutor or Mr Sayce. Alternately, see our revision zone page on the main Acle Academy website (under the students tab) if in KS4 as there are lots of GCSE based resources to help encourage pupils further develop their studies. Furthermore, the school offers many other additional learning opportunities to help pupils learn more. For example, your child could write a 15 by 15 book review/ History Beyond the Classroom review. This will be rewarded with 5 additional HPs and will support their development of literacy.

Q: What if I have more questions about the home learning policy or home learning my child is receiving?

A: You should always feel free to engage with us about your child's and family's experience at school, and home learning is no exception! If you have questions about your child and their relationship to home learning, please talk to their teacher or feel free to discuss it in more depth with their form tutor or Mr Sayce. If you have questions about our home learning policy, or philosophies and research about home learning in general, please reach out to the Senior Leadership Team.

Below are some answers to further commonly asked questions we receive about home learning for pupils at Acle Academy.

Q: What is my role in home learning?

Helping your child develop core organisational skills will be a key. Please check Classcharts regularly to see if there are any impending home learning deadlines for your child. Ensure that your child manages and copes with the workload. If they really struggle, tell them not to worry. If your child goes and sees the teacher in advance to tell them they have

struggled the teacher will help them. We will never sanction a student for being organised and communicating with their staff if home learning was an issue.

Q: I don't know enough about a specific topic to help my child. How can I help?

Youngsters thrive on rewards and encouragement. Maybe look at some information together. Help collect information. Supporting is an excellent way of helping. Alternately, simply ask your child to go and see their subject teacher the following day for help. One of the real benefits of being in a small academy is the openness and working relationship between staff and students. Pupils frequently remark that staff at Acle Academy are easy to approach and incredibly helpful. Your child's teachers will support your child with their home learning if they see them for help before the deadline.

Q: It's noisy and there's no space at home to complete the work.

The academy has a home learning club which runs Tuesday and Thursday after the academy day 15:30-16:30. This is supported by staff in a quiet and safe environment (the academy library, Inspire). This is another ideal place to get help if your child has struggled to complete any home learning. Furthermore, Inspire is open at lunchtimes every day for pupils to complete work in.

Q: My child doesn't tell me about home learning. What can I do?

Simply check Class Charts frequently as outlined above using the below weblink or the smartphone app.

<https://www.classcharts.com/account/login>

Q: I don't have my Classcharts log-in details?

Please contact the school office who will help you obtain a code and can email you both your parental login details and also your child's login details.

Q: My child's home learning is set irregularly and then does not get marked.

The first thing to do would be to talk to your child and make sure of the facts. If there is an issue, tell us via the pupil's form tutor in the first instance, or directly via the Head of Faculty of that subject. Home learning shouldn't be set irregularly and should follow the academy policy. Home learning is often used as a reflective learning activity at the start of the topic and can be marked independently by the student or one of their peers. The main purpose of home learning is to allow students time to practise and embed skills already learnt in the class. Teachers will spend the majority of their time planning future learning rather than marking every single piece of work in-depth. Obviously, dependent on the piece of work there may be in-depth marking but this will vary accordingly.

Q: My child spends more time than is necessary on her home learning.

All students work at different speeds. However, if they are spending inordinate amounts of time on tasks then please make a note to get in contact with their form. The teacher will then take charge of the situation. Attending the academy home learning club that is supported by staff may help them to complete tasks quicker and reduce the stress at home!