



CHISLEHURST SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Policy Document

Policy Name: Independent Study/Homework Policy 2026-27

Date of Last Review: October 2026

Date of Next Review: October 2027

Most Recent Updates: All references to 'Classcharts' replacing Satchel One as the Homework platform for all students, staff & parents.

SLT Responsible: GR

Other Staff Contribution:

Independent Study/Homework Policy 2026-27

The school's policy on independent study/homework is summarised in the school prospectus:

'We place great emphasis on independent study and homework. We regard it as an essential extension of schoolwork and a valuable life skill. All students have additional learning to complete every evening at home and all homework is visible to parents online.'

Parents are asked to support the school in seeing that independent study/homework is done conscientiously. Staff and students are expected to use 'ClassCharts, an IT resource for setting, checking and monitoring homework. Parents are able to log into ClassCharts to view work set.

Independent study/homework set may be intended to complete or consolidate work done in class, to leave students to pursue their own lines of enquiry or to prepare work for a following lesson. Tasks may involve 'flipped learning' (particularly in Grammar Stream or A Level classes), where students' research homework will form a key part of the learning next lesson. The tasks asked of students may include factual or imaginative writing, reading, learning or revision, fact finding, illustration or map work and thinking. Staff should satisfy themselves that students have the skills necessary to carry out the tasks set.

Whatever tasks are set, independent study/homework should

- generate a variety of worthwhile learning experiences additional to those provided in school;
- be designed to take account of the abilities and needs of students within a group;
- enable students to exploit the environment outside school, and to develop skills of discovery, of investigation and of independent learning;
- enable students to use their initiative.

If a student has repeated difficulty in organising her/his time, planning her/his work or getting into a routine of handing in work punctually, her/his subject teacher should speak to the student and contact the parent. Where problems persist, particularly over a range of subjects, the Head of Year should contact the parents and suggest ways in which they could support their daughter/son. Some parents feel that there is little they can do, but in fact they are usually able to check presentation, handwriting and spelling; they can test what has been learnt; they can listen to her/him read, what s/he has written, or explaining what has been studied. In addition, parents can make sure that the correct books are packed at night and not left to the morning rush. They can also view 'ClassCharts'

Homework should be assessed according to school policy. Faculties have adopted methods of monitoring progress which best suit the nature of the subject and the work involved. Please consult the Literacy and T & L with Marking Policies, in addition to the above.

The LRC is available for independent study/homework activities before and after school and for research at lunch times. An additional quiet room is available for students in the main block at lunchtimes for the same purpose.

KS3 Grammar Stream Students

As part of their ICAN Diploma, students in Years 7-9 will receive at least one extended piece of homework each half-term, but no more than two. These pieces of work are advertised in advance in the ICAN booklets. Teachers can decide on the nature, depth and presentation of each task, but it must be graded following the KS3 Assessment policy. Staff may wish to consider whether they want to set any other homework for these classes, if their subject is already setting an extended homework that half-term.

Snow Days (or similar events resulting in school closure)

On rare occasions, the school may need to close to students for exceptional circumstances. The most common will be extreme cold/or snow, where staff/students may not be able to get to school or the site may not be safe to work in.

On these occasions, as a minimum requirement, Teaching staff will set work for students to do at home, in line with their normal timetable. This will also use the ClassCharts platform. Alternatively, staff may wish to teach lessons 'live' on MS Teams.

Suspensions

Schools are required to provide work for students to complete at home, for the first five days of any suspension from school. Work will be set for these students by their teachers on the ClassCharts platform.