WELLACRE

Effective Independent Learning at Wellacre, 2026-27

Homework at Wellacre is referred to as Independent Learning.

The key findings of the **Education Endowment Foundation** report into student homework are as follows:

1. Homework has a **positive impact** on average (+ 5 months), particularly with students in secondary schools.

2. Some students may not have a **quiet space** for home learning – it is important for schools to consider how home learning can be supported (e.g. through providing homework clubs for students).

3. Homework that is **linked to classroom work** tends to be more effective. In particular, studies that included feedback on homework had higher impacts on learning.

4. It is important to make the **purpose** of homework clear to students (e.g. to increase a specific area of knowledge, or to develop fluency in a particular area).

The aims of independent learning at Wellacre

Independent learning at Wellacre will satisfy three clear aims:

1. **Enhance students' knowledge of literacy and numeracy;**
2. **Improve students' knowledge and understanding (fluency) as the building blocks of learning in all subjects;**
3. **Build resilience by developing effective independent learning habits.**

Students' literacy is promoted through independent reading, with students being expected to read daily in school and at home. Students have access to 'First News' accounts in which they can engage with a range of non-fiction texts and current affairs to support their understanding of the wider world and cultural knowledge. Students participate in weekly literacy based activities in form time with teachers leading group reading sessions as well as delivering relevant activities along the literary calendar with all reading progress monitored through NGRT reading tests. Students progress is also supported by SENECA where class teachers will set supportive reading and writing tasks in relation to the curriculum area.There is a well-stocked library, which students are encouraged to use for reading and lending.

Parents and carers can find more information about reading at Wellacre here Reading | Wellacre Academy

Students' numeracy is promoted through access to Mathswatch, SENECA, and weekly Tutor Time Numeracy Activities. Progress is measured using regular assessments and quizzes. These are used to celebrate achievements and help identify common areas for improvement. To further support independent learning, students have access to a wide range of online resources, including our own Wellacre Maths Website (wellacremaths.org) and other recommended resources we have collected on our Student PADLET

Students' knowledge and understanding is promoted through using SENECA, Mathswatch and Carousel. Using the summaries, notes, videos and practice questions to build knowledge and improve students recall.

Students' independent learning habits are promoted through the regular setting of independent learning tasks. Students are encouraged to be proactive in the development of their own knowledge by using independent learning strategies to reinforce learning. To support parents and students at home we have published a guide to effective independent learning and provided a link to the independent learning strategies and habits slides.

Guide to Effective independent learning 2026.27.pdf

Independent learning Strategies

Independent learning habits

Online platforms used for independent learning

Students' independent learning will, in the main, be set on Seneca, Mathswatch and Carousel. Exceptions may be, for example, where the most appropriate platform for completing assignments is in the Google Suite e.g Drive, Classroom or Quiz. Information about the platforms used by subjects can be found here Independent Learning 2026.27

All students have passwords and usernames for each platform.

Seneca - https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/
Username: Your school email address
Password - set by user - if you forget use the reset password link via your school email

Mathswatch - https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/

Username: initalsurname@wellacre (eg: jshiner@wellacre)
Password: The password will either be Wellacre or the username repeated, unless the student has changed it.

Carousel - The link will be shared via Arbor Assignments. Click the link to the quiz and your son can log in with their first and last name. This must be as it appears on Arbor.

Please contact admin@wellacre.org for any login issues

Independent learning cycle

At KS3, the frequency of independent learning is either weekly, fortnightly or monthly and reflects the number of lessons in that subject across the two week timetable.

Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly
English	French	Art
Maths	History	RWE
Science	Geography	Technology
		Music
		Food
		Drama
		Computer Science
		PE

Each independent learning task should take approximately 20-30 minutes**.**

At KS4, independent learning is weekly and each independent learning task should take approximately 30-40 minutes.

Independent learning is monitored, and recognised by staff. SENECA generates leaderboards by student, year and school which we will recognise in House assemblies and through subjects.

If a student persistently fails to complete the independent work they have been set, this will be addressed by their teacher. Each Department will retain the autonomy to implement their own protocols for failure to complete Independent Learning.

We have an Independent Study Club after school on Monday and Tuesday. All students are welcome to attend and receive support. The club is based in the Library.

Reporting students commitment to learning

'Commitment to Independent Learning at home' will be evident in students' online platform records. Mastery of that knowledge and understanding and their response to teacher feedback in lessons. This will be reported twice a year for each student in the form of a grade 1-4.

- 1= Outstanding
- 2= Good
- 3= Inconsistent
- 4= Inadequate

Expectations of students

Students should:

- **Take time to check** for assignments set and schedule their time for completion. Information regarding assignments set by subject can be found here Independent Learning 2026.27
- Take **pride** in the work they produce
- Be **respectful** by meeting the deadlines set by their teacher.
- Show **resilience** in their learning by attempting every aspect of the work set.
- Be **aspirational** by using notes, videos and summaries within the online platforms to assist them if they get 'stuck'. Try to do more than the assignments set using the additional options available with online platforms. Use the independent learning strategies taught in lessons to revisit and reinforce learning. Independent learning Strategies
- Be **honest** about how much they read regularly and widely, including their own library reading book and a range of fiction and non-fiction texts.

Expectations of staff

All teaching staff will:

- Set tasks which cover the subject matter that has already been taught in lessons to promote the acquisition of knowledge and understanding (fluency) in subjects. Where tasks involve front loading, tasks will be introduced in lessons and students will be supported to ensure they feel able and confident to complete them.
- Set assignments that are clear and meaningful.
- Make students aware of the purpose of independent learning and why it is important in the context of their curriculum and wider academic experiences.
- Set assignments on SENECA, Mathswatch and Carousal as routine. By exception, teachers may set work on Arbor which signposts to the Google Suite.
- Test retrieval and memory through regular low stakes quizzing in class and regular formal assessments.
- Explicitly teach how to use and apply independent learning strategies to their subject. Independent learning Strategies

Expectations of Parents/ Carers

All parents and carers should:

- Create a suitable space at home for the completion of independent learning
- Support and encourage the completion of independent learning tasks every day and support the development of effective study habits by making it part of everyday routine at home
- Encourage reading so that it is valued at home. Try the reading prompts to help generate a discussion around reading Reading | Wellacre Academy
- Support students in acquiring factual knowledge and sound understanding of subject content by discussing academic progress at home.
- Use the parent account in SENECA to recognise your son's engagement with their learning.