**What does an independent learner look like at SJCR?**

**Someone who is motivated**
- Someone who takes responsibility for their own learning.
- Someone who does not procrastinate. It is easy to *talk* about working and easy to put things off. A motivated learner will get on and actually do the work they need to do.

**Someone who takes initiative**
- Someone who learns to take risks.
- Someone who is innovative.
- Someone who is pro-active and does things before being asked.

**Someone who manages their own time**
- Someone who will actively identify what is important to them in their studies and prioritise their work. Someone who will work out how long they will need to spend on each piece of work.
- Someone who can balance their studies with their social life and other interests.
- Someone who can draw from a variety of different sources.
- Someone who makes use of the library, the VLE and the ILC.

**Someone who can reflect on their learning**
- Someone who is able to reflect on their own progress (and be honest with themselves about how much work they have done and what they need to do to improve).
- Someone who seeks for advice and feedback and uses it to improve.

**Someone who is resilient**
- Someone who does not give up.
- Someone who is persistent if a task is challenging.

**Someone who seeks help if necessary**

**Someone who asks questions and wants to have discussions**
- Someone who asks their teacher questions to expand on their learning.
- Someone who gets a discussion or a debate going with their peers, to develop their ability to think rigorously and critically and to consider points they had not thought about before.
Independent Learning
How can you help your child?

**Encourage study habits:**
- Have your child start their homework within 30 minutes of arriving from school.
- Make sure your child has a quiet place to study so that they can focus on what they are doing.
- Avoid multi-tasking. Help them minimise distraction while they are doing homework.
  - Homework should never be done in front of the TV.
  - Mobile phone should be off.
- Encourage your child to use the library, the school VLE and ILC (independent learning centre) where they can receive support from members of staff, such as the librarian.

**Getting organised:**
- Check their planner, if possible every evening, and make sure they hand in all homework on time, as homework helps them to become more independent.
- Help them deciding which homework to do first by looking at the deadlines in their planner.

**Helping with homework**
- This might involve discussions about the tasks, listening to your child read, testing your child (asking questions)
- Make contact with the school if your child is struggling with the homework.
- Encourage your child to use a variety of resources, such as study guides, dictionaries, reliable online resources.

**What else can you do?**
- Encourage your child to have a go and not give up.
- Encourage your child with praise to boost their self-esteem and give them encouragement when they need it as they need to believe they can succeed.
- Encourage reading as the foundation for success in school is good reading habits.
# How to be an independent learner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Draw from a variety of different sources. Make use of the library, the VLE, the ILC</th>
<th>Have a go</th>
<th>Take risks</th>
<th>Use your initiative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do your research</td>
<td>Look for inspiration</td>
<td>Be self-motivated</td>
<td>Be creative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan ahead</td>
<td>Take responsibility for your learning</td>
<td>Ask for support and advice</td>
<td>Try again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage your own time</td>
<td>Take your time to reflect</td>
<td>Be pro-active</td>
<td>Double check your work before you hand it in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take the lead</td>
<td>Ask questions</td>
<td>Be curious</td>
<td>Ask for feedback and use it</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>