



Blended Learning Policy

Signed: Peter O'Leary (Chair of Board of
Governors)

Donagh McNelis (Principal)

Date: 8th Nov. 2020



This policy is written in line taking into account DE Circular Number: 2020/05

GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS ON SUPPORTING REMOTE LEARNING TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL CONTINUITY (5th June 2020)

Link: -

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/circular-20205-guidance-schools-supporting-remote-learning>

Blended Learning Introduction

During a period of long term closure, in the event of a class isolating or where small numbers in each class are isolating, staff at Sion Mills PS will continue to provide education and support to our pupils using remote/blended learning. In this case, the Department recommends that all schools aim to engage with pupils on an ongoing basis through the wide range of e-learning platforms available rather than provide hard copy or emailed resources alone, if at all possible.

The predominant e-learning platform that ... will be using during remote and blended learning will be **Seesaw** where pupils are enrolled with Seesaw Class App.

This will allow staff to keep in daily contact, in a professional and confidential manner with each pupil in their class and their parent. Teachers will be able to schedule learning in a manner that does not overwhelm or concern our pupils. Teaching and learning can be tailored, changed and updated as time progresses, allowing for replication of classroom activity to the best of our ability. In all communications we will adhere to our commitment to maintaining pupil wellbeing.

When is Blended Learning Provided

When the whole class, including the class teacher is isolating, the following points in the expectations sections will be expected.

For small numbers in the class who are isolating or long term sickness, **not all expectations** below can be fulfilled daily, due to the demands of teachers teaching their class.

Blended Learning does not apply to pupils who are off sick short term or awaiting a COVID test.

In the event of staff illness during whole school or class isolation, Literacy and Numeracy workbooks will be provided to ensure continuity in learning. Children at home choose best how to record their work. Examples include: exercise books, typed documents, photographs or videos – all which are uploaded and submitted via our Seesaw platform.

Expectations

Teaching staff will: -

- Continue teaching in line with current, extensive planning that is already in place throughout the school.
- Continue to ensure a progression in learning appropriate to the child's year group and also their needs.
- Schedule specific and **differentiated** tasks and activities with their class using Seesaw. These will be scheduled for 9:30am daily.
- Learning tasks should last around 10-30 minutes and should be designed to achieve a specific goal or for a specific reason in order to engage pupils.
- Specific tasks in Seesaw should aim to utilise the multimedia aspects of e-learning through visuals, video tutorials and audio where possible. Providing links to videos, online experiments, animations and podcasts can be very helpful by providing pupils with different ways of explaining concepts, assisting those who are less confident, and to work in lieu of teacher-led explanation.
- Learning tasks should integrate other e-learning platforms that are being utilised by the school. Examples include: -

School website
Mathletics
Education City
Accelerated Reading

Google Apps
Teams
C2k Newsdesk

- Learning tasks should integrate a range of off-line learning tasks also.
- Provide feedback on submitted work using Seesaw.
- Reply to messages from parents or pupils that have been sent before 3pm daily. After 3pm, messages will be replied from 9:00am the following day. It should be highlighted that messages of high importance may need to be responded to after 3pm and these should be brought to the attention of the Principal by the teacher.
- Make contact with parents if learning tasks are not being completed or submitted. If lack of engagement continues, Principal or Vice Principal will then contact parent.
- Engage in other professional duties e.g. Coordinator roles.

- Support parents who are unable to provide their pupils with Laptop or I-pad devices. Sion Mills PS will lend a device temporarily to the parent to ensure the pupil can engage in blended learning.
- Continue to demonstrate and adhere to appropriate Staff and ICT Code of conduct procedures.

Pupils will...

- Only access the material shared by their teacher and will ask for parental permission to use technology for anything beyond that.
- Continue to stay safe online using Sion Mills PS SMART targets.
- Complete and submit the learning tasks set through the relevant platforms
- Read daily, either independently or with an adult.
- Be assured that wellbeing is at the forefront of our thoughts and they should take regular breaks, get fresh air, exercise and maintain a reasonable balance with Blended Learning activities
- Consider using the school closure time to learn a new skill, follow their own interests to discover more about the world around us or be creative.

Parents will...

- Support their child's learning to the best of their ability.
- Encourage their child to access and engage with their teacher.
- Not screenshot or copy any information, messages or posts to share on social media or any other platform.
- Follow the agreed policies in school that are connected with Blended Learning.
- Ensure their child is safe and responsible when using online platforms.
- Know they can continue to contact their class teacher as normal through the Seesaw app or by email if they require support of any kind. *Parents should be mindful that there are*

protocols in place for when teachers respond and answer queries. Teachers must maintain a work/home life balance therefore will only respond to queries, on school working days, between the hours of 9.00am and 3.00pm. usually.

- Check announcement provided by the class teacher via the Seesaw App.
- Check their child's completed work each day and encourage the progress that is being made.
- Contact the class teacher if their child is unable to engage in learning due to being unwell or having symptoms.
- Contact the teacher if your child does not have access to a laptop or i-pad device and internet access, so that a suitable provision can be put in place.
- Be mindful of mental well-being of both themselves and their child and encourage their child to take regular breaks, play games, get fresh air and relax.

Associated Policies

This policy operates alongside all of the school's relevant safeguarding and behaviour policies.

*Child Protection & Safe Guarding Policy
Positive Behaviour Policy*

*E-Safety Policy
Online Learning Policy*