



Blended Learning Policy

Introduction

The aim of this policy is to consider the practical implementation of blended learning across a number of eventualities in order to ensure pupils, teachers, parents and other stakeholders are clear about expectations and responsibilities. We are required to put plans in place in case of a local or national lockdown arrangement or a breakout of COVID-19 within the school community.

This policy draws on recommendations made in the NASWT report on blended learning

<https://www.naswt.org.uk/advice/in-the-classroom/remote-and-blended-learning.html>

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) research evidence on supporting pupils to learn remotely

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/covid-19-resources/best-evidence-on-supporting-students-to-learn-remotely/>

The government guidelines to secondary schools on planning for local restrictions

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-schools-can-plan-for-tier-2-local-restrictions/how-schools-can-plan-for-tier-2-local-restrictions>

Research Evidence

There is an emerging body of research into “blended learning”, a style of education in which students learn via electronic and online media as well as traditional face-to-face teaching. This new approach to teaching and learning has grown exponentially due to wide spread school closure. The evidence of what works is clear and strengthening. The EEF have identified the following key areas to consider for successful blended learning provision.

1. Teaching quality is more important than how teaching is delivered

Providing that the established principles for introducing new knowledge are adhered to (explanation, scaffolding, feedback) then there is no difference between the effectiveness of real time remote lessons or pre-recorded material. What matters most is that each learning sequence builds on prior understanding.

2. Ensuring access to technology is key, particularly amongst disadvantaged pupils

Lack of access to appropriate technology is a barrier to effective participation in remote learning. We need to be aware of pupils who may have less access than others and require extra provision/ support.

3. Peer interaction provides motivation and improves learning outcomes

Peer marking, modelling and sharing of work, as well as live discussion and the use of shared forum functions for collaborative learning are all useful strategies to motivate and help progress whilst engaging learners.

4. Supporting pupils to work independently can improve learning outcomes

Using metacognitive approaches to encourage reflection and promote deliberate practice helps learners engage more effectively but also reminds them of key learning and thinking skills.

5. Different approaches to remote learning suit different types of content and pupils

Teachers will be supported to reflect on different approaches to remote learning and what will be most effective to deliver their subject content through ongoing CPD and coaching.

Defining Full Remote Provision

We recognise that personal contact with our pupils is key to maintaining motivation and engagement, as well as sustaining fruitful relationships, both teacher/pupil, peer to peer and with parents.

We also recognise that when providing remote learning variety is key. The research is clear that pupils should be facilitated to engage in a variety of remote learning activities, including direct instruction, real time lessons, recorded sequences, quizzes, formal assessments, discussion forums, break out rooms and online material (including those set on Firefly, our virtual learning platform in the Senior School). Also included are print based resources such as textbooks, revision guides, class readers and worksheets.

We also consider ongoing pastoral support to be central to ensuring our pupils remain linked to the Langley community. This occurs through a variety of contact with Form Tutors/Heads of Year, remote assemblies and remote Chapel services.

The government has specified minimum expectations for remote provision;

- set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects, including new material - planning a programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school
- teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject
- gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum using questions and other suitable tasks, and set a clear expectation on how regularly teachers will check work
- enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding

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Specific approaches for different scenarios where blended learning may be required

1. Teacher absence due to self or family isolation whilst awaiting a COVID-19 test result

Staff member will be expected to set work via Firefly providing they are well and not caring for a dependant within the household who is unwell. COVID return to work procedures to be followed in liaison with Coronaupdate mailbox.

As circumstances dictate and if the teacher remains well, then they should continue to set work via Firefly, and, in negotiation with the teacher, provision will be put in place for them to deliver lessons remotely where possible to their examination classes. If they are a form tutor they will be expected to check in remotely with their tutor group. They will continue to assess work on line. This will take immediate effect after the teacher goes into isolation and will continue for the duration of the time they are physically absent from school, providing they are well.

Where a live online lesson is provided teaching staff should record sessions to allow any pupils who were unable to attend to have access to the learning.

If they are unwell and unable to work, cover would be set by their Head of Department (HOD).

2. Pupil absence due to self or family isolation whilst awaiting a COVID-19 test result

Parents must inform the school via the coronaupdate@langleyschool.co.uk mailbox that COVID-19 symptoms are the reason for their absence and follow NHS111 guidance as to who needs isolate and book a test. Teachers will initially be asked to set work via Firefly as with any other absence. Parents should notify coronaupdate@langleyschool.co.uk of results and follow advice from the school about when they may return to site learning.

Whilst the household is in quarantine the pupil will be set work via firefly as for any other absence, and receive feedback from their teachers on what they have submitted. However they will also have a weekly catch up (either via Zoom or a phonecall) with their form tutor and/ or Head of Year (HOY).

Pupils who are unwell need to focus on getting better and the School will help them to catch on any work they have missed when they return fit and well. However, pupils who are absent for Covid-related issues, and are well enough, will be able to access work they miss via Firefly once staff have had the opportunity to upload this at the end of their working day.

Parents are advised to keep in close contact with form tutors about the health of their child over the period of isolation, in particular about the level of work they are able to complete.

Pupils with Learning Support, EAL support and peripatetic music lessons can access sessions via zoom in negotiation with the SENDCo, Heads of EAL and the Head of Music.

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3. Long term pupil absence due to shielding or COVID related concerns regarding either themselves or a member of their family.

In this eventuality provision will be negotiated on a case by case basis, but will include an individual timetable, remote work set via firefly, and weekly catch ups with form tutors and subject teachers.

4. Contingency for a large number of pupils isolating

If a significant number of pupils in a class or year group are required to isolate then their timetable will be delivered on line in the same model as during full lockdown. Teachers will send out zoom codes via firefly and students will log in. This could (as per EEF research) take a number of formats; real time, pre-recorded, assessments etc. Pupils will receive feedback via firefly. Teachers will expect to deliver lessons according to their school timetable. If a number of pupils are still in school classes may need to be combined in order to deliver effective on site and on line learning experiences.

5. Contingency for a large number of staff isolating

Whilst doing our utmost to avoid this eventuality, if a large number of staff are required to isolate at one time the school may need to move to initially combining classes, but ultimately move to guidance for opening on a rota system to different year groups. During isolation staff not in school will provide remote learning for their classes (if they remain well) but also potentially larger groups in the same manner as during full lockdown. There will also continue to be pastoral check-ins.

In the event of a rota system being instigated the government guidance stipulates that Year 6 should continue to be offered full time provision.

Online Safety and Safeguarding

All online delivery must follow the procedures outlined in Appendix 7 of the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy which is available on the school website.

All staff must be familiar with the particulars of the Safeguarding and Child Protection policy as part of the statutory requirements of their role.

Data Protection

All personal data must be processed according to the Data Protection Policy.

Staff must not create accounts for online resources for students where their personal data is used.

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If staff wish to use software not readily available on the school system this must be agreed with the Data Protection Officer who will ensure compliance with GDPR and Data Protection legislation.

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