

2020

# Blended Learning Policy and Guidance



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Primary School

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### **The rationale behind this policy.**

In March 2020, all schools in Wales were closed due to the Covid19 virus. Teachers had to embark on a distance learning approach for all pupils. This meant, schools had to use IT to set, receive and feedback on work. This was the case for all pupils from Reception to Year 6. This period of blended learning continued until the end of the academic year in July 2020.

*‘Blended learning is an approach to education that combines online educational materials and opportunities for interaction online with traditional place-based classroom methods. It requires the physical presence of both teacher and student, with some elements of student control over time, place, path, or place.’*

Blended learning can be used in the classroom to promote pupil independence and allow pupils to take control of their learning when the task allows it.

With the prospect of a ‘second spike’ and the possibility that contact groups or the whole school may be shut down and we will have to revert to blended learning again, we have written this policy and guidance.

### **The principles that underpin this policy/guidance.**

- Face-to-face learning and distance learning should complement each other and be driven by a single curriculum. It should be underpinned by good quality teaching.
- For the child, any blended learning approach should:
  - Ensure that their stage of development and sense of well-being is fully taken into account when planning for learning.
- This should include explicit opportunities to develop their personal, social and emotional skills as an integral part of blended provision
- Involve play and investigation opportunities to develop their natural curiosity and problem-solving skills.
- Ensure that all learning holds meaning, has a purpose and builds their confidence over time.
- Recognise and value parents as the child’s first educator and build an increasingly effective two-way dialogue between home and school.
- Be strongly rooted in the principles of effective early learning and pay regard to the Four Purposes of the new curriculum.
- Ensure all parents/carers can participate positively in their child’s learning journey so that all learners have an equal chance of success.
- Be aware of any barriers that may prevent parents/carers from working with their child at home, for example language of the home or inability to read and understand instructions.
- Acknowledge that parents may be working at home and that tasks need to allow a degree of flexibility between independent (consolidating previous skills) and parent led.
- Allow opportunities to feedback to pupils.

- Allow opportunities to engage with pupils via Microsoft teams.

### **Practical application of Blended Learning.**

If a contact group is unable to attend school, then the first week of blended learning activities will be planned the following day to be issued the next working day, after that.. An 'adobe spark' or similar video may be used to launch the weeks work, with weekly tasks set on the platform appropriate for the age group.

Teaching staff will be available to receive and comment on work as appropriate. However, in some cases teaching staff will also have children at home and this has to be taken into account. This may mean that they will only be able to respond at times that fit around their own commitments.

This is an outline of the activities possible in KS2/Foundation Phase.

### **Foundation Phase**

- **Class Dojo** - share the tasks for the week ahead and pupils can upload their homework.
- **HWB Outlook**- Keep in contact with parents.
- **Pic Collage** – Create a collage of work at the end of the week to reflect on learning.
- **Adobe Spark** – Create a video introducing the topic and learning.
- **Active Learn** – Maths games.
- **Schoop/Twitter** – Celebrate learning and share work.
- **Microsoft Teams**- Focus on wellbeing and keeping in touch, discussing any concerns/worries.

### **Key Stage Two**

- **Google classroom** – Assign classwork. Literacy/Maths work can be completed on Google Docs or photograph uploaded.
- **HWB Outlook** – Keep in contact with parents.
- **Google Quiz** – Create a quiz at the end of the week to consolidate weekly learning.
- **Adobe Spark** – Create a video introducing the topic and learning.
- **Active Learn** – Maths games.
- **Schoop/Twitter** – Celebrate learning and share work.
- **Microsoft Teams** – A 15- 25-minute call with a small group of learners, with a particular focus/discussion. Provide images/videos to support learning.

