

St Brigid's Primary School



Blended Learning Policy



November 2020

“Learning does not stop if school is disrupted.” DE

- Blended Learning is a hybrid approach that combines learning in school with distance learning, from home, including online learning.
- Blended Learning is a flexible model that supports a unit of learning to progress, whilst not requiring teachers and learners to be in the same physical space at all times – asynchronous learning.
- It is important to consider Blended Learning within the ongoing development of the whole school and things may change over time and there is no 'one size fits all' ideal.

By moving to a Blended Learning model, routines will change and pose specific challenges to the wellbeing and mental health of staff, learners and parents. The move to Blended Learning will equally affect the ability of schools to respond to these challenges and provide support to students and staff. The COVID-19 crisis has added extra mental health and well-being concerns for schools, and they will play an important role in mitigating the negative psychological effects of the crisis.

Rationale

Blended Learning is a priority for us in order to ensure we are supporting our families and children with their learning and providing remote learning opportunities should we need to send individual children, small group or classes / bubbles home for short or extended periods of time or even in the case of a full school closure. We will be exploring and adopting new systems to further develop the remote model we had in operation during the full lockdown in March – June 2020. These systems were successful and we need to retain much of the good practice we developed at the same time as moving forward and exploring new ways of working, particularly regular daily contact with pupils.

In order to deliver a coherent range of curricular experiences, our staff are committed to giving pupils access to learning activities which will, as far as possible, meet their needs and

build upon prior learning. We will provide training and time for staff to develop their practice in this area and to develop systems that are both manageable and successful. This document aims to clarify the implementation of Blended Learning at St Brigid's PS, outlining our aims and objectives, explaining Health and Safety expectations and Safeguarding guidelines, and our determination to ensure our children's needs are met as far as we possibly can during this difficult time. We will need to be aware of the different stages and levels of "Blended Learning", and consider our future approaches to a full closure, a class/bubble closure and individual short term individual isolation.



In St Brigid's PS each pupil is provided with a pack of work which contains photocopied worksheets, reading books/class novel. In addition, they have access to online programmes including:

- Collins Big Cats
- Mangahigh
- Skoolbo
- Accelerated Reader
- Accelerated Maths

Online teaching will be provided on a daily basis by their teacher.

P1 – P4 pupils using Seesaw

P5 - P7 pupils using Google Classroom.

All Key Stage 2 pupils have their Google Chromebook at home for daily use. If pupils in P1 – P4 cannot access a device such as a PC, laptop, iPad, smart phone please contact the school office so that you can be loaned a device during a period of extensive home learning.

If you do not have access to broadband in your home, Vodafone have kindly provided 30GB sim cards for remote learning. All your child needs is an old smart phone, again, just contact the school office if you need this SIM.

We know that the situation at home is varied, some parents are working all day, some are on shifts, but where possible we ask you to encourage your child to do their school work during their normal school hours.

CHILDREN MUST LOG IN EARLY EACH MORNING FOR THAT DAY'S INSTRUCTIONS. THEIR LOG IN ALSO DETERMINES WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE MARKED PRESENT FOR THAT SCHOOL DAY.

The Department of Education have set the attendance codes as:

- Covid-19 Learning from home.
- Covid-19 No evidence of learning from home.

Therefore, it is essential that your child logs on daily and submits their work daily. If, however, you know that your child cannot login on set days of the week, due to your child-minding arrangements you should discuss this with Mrs McCrum or Mrs O Kane by telephoning the school office or via email pmccrum459@c2ken.net; mokane282@c2ken.net

The role of the pupils:

- To engage with learning opportunities and complete remote learning tasks online or in paper form.
- To log in each morning so that we know you are ready to learn today.
- To engage in learning through our digital platforms – Seesaw or Google Classroom, asking questions to clarify understanding if required.
- To ensure everyone feels valued, respected and included.
- To contribute their views during remote learning.
- To always do their very best.
- To follow all internet safety rules, if you see anything inappropriate to immediately tell your teacher.
- To use the computer at home in a family room (not your bedroom if possible).
- To dress appropriately – no pyjamas please.
- To obey teacher's instructions re camera/microphone switched on/off.
- Never to record your teacher and put the recording on another internet platform.



The role of parents and carers:

- To support the school values.
- To foster an open pathway of communication between the school and home where appropriate.
- To support children in accessing the variety of learning opportunities provided to the best of their ability.
- Utilise Google Classroom/Seesaw to access remote learning materials which support, complement and consolidate school learning.
- To ensure that their child is logged on each morning, for the calculation of attendance. To complete work where possible during school hours (not in the evenings or at weekends).
- To be vigilant and wary of cyber security when your child is online. Ideally your child should be in a family room, not alone in their bedroom, they should be appropriately dressed and engage according to the rules of the session regarding video and microphones.
- Ensure children complete remote learning tasks online or on paper as required, preferably submitted daily by 3pm.
- To understand that teachers need time to respond to questions or queries, remembering that at times, a number of children will still be in school and will require the teachers' immediate presence.



Guidelines for Home Learning and Teaching for Parents and Carers

We know that the idea of supporting children's learning at home can seem daunting. Many of our parents and carers have great expertise and skills in this area, but some are less experienced and confident. It is important to remember that parents and carers are not expected to become teachers and that children will not need to learn in the same way as they do in school. The most important aspect is the relationship that families already have with their children, as this will enable them to support and reassure them during this unusual time.

On the days that children are engaging with remote learning at home, it is advised that parents and carers plan the day out in advance with children, doing this will help to reduce pressure or anxiety.



Blended Learning is new for all of us, our school motto is 'together in learning'. We just need everyone to try their best.

January 2021.