

Glenboi Community Primary School

YSGOL GYNRADD GYMUNEDOL
GLENBOI
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Blended Learning Policy

Date: February 2022

Review Date : February 2023

Blended Learning Guidance:

'As more learners return to the physical school environment, practitioners will be operating in a very different context. This will continue for the foreseeable future: providing a combination of face to face learning with remote learning - a blended learning approach. Schools and settings will have to develop new learning and approaches to meet the needs of their learners in response to the pandemic. In so doing, practitioners can consider the purposes of learning and weigh up their priorities; flexibly drawing on a wide range of curriculum guidance to support them in this work.'

<https://gov.wales/keep-education-safe-guidance-learning-over-summer-term>

Roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders:

For blended learning to be most effective it is important that all stakeholders work together for the betterment of learners. These roles are reflective of blended learning only and it must be recognised that the current situation means that each stakeholder has a far greater role than is captured here.

Welsh Government	• Provide guidance and support for schools around 'Stay Safe. Stay Learning'
Local Authority	• Ensure the school is equipped with the technology and technological infrastructure to handle the growing tech needs • Work in tandem with schools to anticipate and resolve critical tech issues
Central South Consortium	• Support schools to successfully enact blended learning • Provide professional learning opportunities for school leaders and teachers around blended learning • Provide bespoke support to schools to enable them to better provide blended learning • Facilitate opportunities for networks of leaders and practitioners to engage in sharing their learning about and experiences of blended learning
School leadership	• Develop the school level vision and achieve buy-in and engagement among the school community for blended learning • Make strategic decisions based on the unique context in which the school operates that best meets the needs of learners and staff • Provide opportunities for staff to engage with professional learning activities that will equip them to effectively plan for and implement blended learning
Teachers	• Plan for and enact blended learning for the groups of learners they are responsible for in line with the school vision • Build buy-in among students and parents • Engage in professional learning to further develop knowledge, understanding, skills and proficiency in blended learning
Learners	• Begin to take greater ownership in their learning process • Be respectful to their community as digital citizens
Parents	• Encourage and support the learning engaging constructively as appropriate

Welsh Government expectations/guidance:

To facilitate the 'online' aspect of Blended Learning, ensure all learners have access to their online learning platform (Hwb) and have a clear understanding of the following:

- How to access material provided by the teacher
- How to use the most appropriate online tools to complete any task set, including providing evidence of work completed away from a device, e.g. photograph or video of physical and practical activities, where appropriate
- How to submit any digital material to their teacher
- How to access and respond to any feedback provided by their teacher

Within a blended learning model, effective assessment and feedback should:

- Focus on the formative element so that learners are supported to move forward in an unfamiliar context
- Focus on helping to identify next steps and building confidence both to enable them to be ready to learn and to make progress in their learning

The purpose of feedback within the context of blended learning:

- Keep in touch during the 'home' element of blended learning and maintain positivity
- Acknowledge and appreciate learners' efforts, to celebrate their work and offer encouragement
- Support the learners to ensure that they understand the tasks and respond to any misconceptions or misunderstanding that they may have
- Provide the teacher with as much information as possible of the learners' current knowledge and understanding and the ways in which they can be supported in the next steps of their learning
- Help parents to support their children's learning

The nature of the feedback given:

- Clearly present and explain the tasks set for the day or week giving clear expectations
- Be guided by the teacher's professional judgement following their evaluation of the learning needs of pupils and the nature of the activity being undertaken, how any feedback, including marking, is given
- Communicate clearly, simply and concisely when providing individual or whole group verbal or written feedback
- Correct common misconceptions and misunderstandings
- Provide learners with opportunities to keep in touch and communicate with their peers, and to see and celebrate each other's work so that they learn from one another.

School procedures for facilitating blending learning:

September 2020

Aim

To provide clarity and guidance in event of class or school lockdown due to Covid-19.

Introduction

During the national lockdown from March to July 2020 the school developed a Home Learning strategy. The strategy, which used Google Sites to broadcast work to children and the Seesaw app for them to send and receive work, was developed at short notice and was successful in allowing many of our learners access to learning and feedback. We are now in a situation where our learners have returned to school yet the possibility of localised class lockdowns remains likely. This policy refines our approach to Home Learning and should provide clarity in the incidence of a short notice lockdown.

Paper based learning

In the first instance of a class lockdown learners who are in school will be provided with a pack of worksheets and paper based activities to complete at home. This give the teacher time to prepare online learning for the rest of the lockdown period and provide work to those learners who struggled to access online learning. This work will be generic and age appropriate and saved in the shared folder on HWB so that it is accessible in the instance of teacher absence.

Online Learning

Teaching will then move online to provide more specific and topic relevant learning. This will be available no longer than 48 hours after class closure. Classes will follow the same strategy as during the national lockdown of broadcasting work on our Home learning website/ School website class pages and returning work via Seesaw. A letter will be sent to parents explaining the situation and a link to the Home Learning website will be text to parents.

Feedback to learners will be provided no longer than 24 hours after submission and within the usual school working day 8:30am-5:00pm. Feedback should be used as an opportunity to encourage engagement as well as extending and consolidating learning through challenging questions.

Digitally Excluded Learners

- Digitally excluded learners are recognised and suitable devices are applied for through the Local Authority DEL scheme

Live streaming and video-conferencing

As a general principle teachers will not use live streaming or video-conferencing to support teaching due to the pressure that this could place on teachers, parents and learners. Teachers may pre-record videos to support lesson content and in these incidences they should be aware of the background to their video and conduct themselves as if in a classroom. If a teacher feels it is necessary to use live-streaming or video conferencing they should discuss this with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher and follow the guidance outlined in the Welsh Government [Live-streaming and video-conferencing: safeguarding principles and practice](#) document.

This policy has been approved by the G.B. on 14.2.22

Signed: _____ (Headteacher)

Print Name: Gemma Powell

Signed: _____ (Governor)

Print Name: Chair of Governors Councillor Andrew Morgan

This policy will be reviewed February 2023