



Offsite Information for Families

January 2021

Offsite provision: information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to learners and parents/carers about what to expect from blended learning where national or local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home.

Blended learning: what is taught to learners at home?

A learner's first day or two of being educated offsite might look different from our standard approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a longer period of blended teaching.

What should my child expect from immediate blended learning in the first day or two of learners being sent home?

Each class team has provided a blended learning timetable for their learners to access with their parents, detailing sessions to access for live lessons, online learning via websites/platforms. In the event of an immediate closure of a class/bubble, learners will be sent home with an activity pack relevant to their needs.

Following the first few days of blended learning, will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?

We teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some sessions. For example, (links to sensory circuit videos rather than physical prompting the learners in class, modelling how to approach learners who are tactile defensive with different textures encouraging hand under hand exploration rather than physical supporting a learner etc)

Blended learning time each day

As a School the blended learning timetables shared with families identify the potential for 20 hours of learning each week. We expect that blended learning should include live lessons, online delivery, therapy programmes including Speech and language therapy, Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, Visual stimulation, self- help skills and independent work in the form of creative tasks. Due to the needs of the learners the balance of the above will differ and take into consideration the age and ability of the learners.

Accessing blended learning

How will my child access any online remote learning you are providing?

We are primarily using Zoom as the virtual tool to deliver live lessons and share videos. However, we have started to use Microsoft teams with some families to encourage engagement from a range of agencies including the learner during their person centered review.

If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will you support them to access blended learning in the home?

We recognise that some learners may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those learners to access remote education:

- Printed resources will be delivered to families with an expectation the resources will be used after 72 hours (period of quarantine)
- All devices allocated by the Government and those we purchase using Pupil Premium funds will be assigned to families who have indicated they require a device suitable to meet the needs of their child via the survey.
- Parents will be expected to read and sign the loaning of device agreement
- **Parents will be signposted to the Government website to request additional wifi.**
- Parents are encouraged to send pictures of completed work to the class team email address to share successes and celebrate achievement. Head teacher and class awards will be given to those learners who have engaged well.

How will my child be taught?

We use a combination of the following approaches to teach learners remotely:

Some examples of how we intend to promote blended learning are:

- live teaching (online lessons)
- recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- printed paper and activity packs produced by teachers (workbooks, worksheets), may be supplemented with actual practical resources
- reading books learners have at home
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences
- long-term topic/theme work

Engagement and feedback

What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

We expect parents to support their child to access the blended learning at a time that is suitable to them. We understand for some learners they demonstrate crisis behaviours when using a device in the home and for them to access they need to prepare their child to create a calm atmosphere. Learners are offered a minimum of 1 zoom per session per day with a maximum of 3 sessions daily. Learners may be offered 1-1 live intervention.

How will you check whether my child is engaging with their work and how will I be informed if there are concerns?

Class teams are encouraged to complete a register of attendance to live lessons and identify engagement levels and share with their Phase and Bubble lead, which in turn is shared with the Early help team.

- If there is a concern a member of the Early help team will make contact via telephone in the first instance, followed by a home visit.
- Educational welfare officers review attendance and engagement with our attendance leads across School on a weekly basis.

How will you assess my child's work and progress?

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual learners. At Springside our feedback differs dependent on the needs of the learners, the Phase, the class and on the individual. This is our standard practice:

- Verbal feedback - including on zoom (families feedback recorded in learning journeys/ records of achievement/ workbooks);
- Visual (including symbols) feedback - including on zoom;
- Written feedback - annotated work or via email;
- Observations and written recording of these;
- Sharing and celebrating successes at the beginning (from previous lessons) and end of lessons;
- Wow moments via email to families and displayed in school;
- Photographs (shared via email);
- Weekly phone calls/ welfare visits (to families), offering support, guidance, strategies and next steps;
- Star of the week certificates (communicated via assembly and e-newsletter);
- Head teacher's awards (communicated via assembly and e-newsletter);
- PLP (personal learning plans - currently via Zoom) with families;
- Annual Reviews (currently via Zoom) with families;
- Evidence and progress information uploaded to Solar platform