RLO

Updated 10/02/21

BLENDED LEARNING policy FEBRuary 2021



# Rationale

In the event of a school closure, Walton le Dale High School is committed to providing continuity of education to its students and will do so through a process of remote (online) learning[[1]](#footnote-1). Walton le Dale staff are committed to fostering the school’s mission ***‘Learning for Life’****,* whatever challenges life may bring. Extensive remote learning would apply particularly in a situation in which the school is closed for an extended period of time, but a high proportion of students and teachers are healthy, and able to work as normal from home.

This policy does not normally apply in the event of short-term school closures (e.g. as a result of inclement weather) or a short-term student absence. Remote learning may also be appropriate in situations when students, in agreement with the school, have a period of absence but are able to work at home, at least to some extent. This may apply in cases such as exclusion from school, or longer term illness, assuming students are able to complete school work at home. Another relevant instance would be if, following an infectious disease outbreak, students are self-isolating at home but are not suffering with relevant symptoms. There is no obligation for the school to provide continuity of education to students who absent themselves from school, with or without parental permission, in contravention to school or government guidance.

# Remote learning for individual students

Assuming an absence has been agreed with the school, and the student in question is healthy enough to work from home, the school will provide work for students who are unable to attend in person. This will be in line with the blended learning protocols outlined in the ‘Teaching and Learning Policy 2020-21'. If there are questions from an individual student or their parents regarding work, communication with the parent will be coordinated by the admin team under the direction of the Head of Section, keeping the form tutor informed. The student’s subject teachers will use Office 365 email and Microsoft Teams to make work available to the student in line with blended learning protocols (at the end of this policy document). If there are any issues with the compilation of work, tutors should liaise the relevant Head of Section or Head of Department (particularly if a classroom teacher is unavailable). Though every case will have its own specifics, a rough guideline for the frequency of communication between school (admin support or Head of Section, although they may seek guidance from the form tutor or mentor) and parent would be once per week. Work will be available immediately on the first day of absence.

# Department for Education (DfE)

The DfE has the following [expectations](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#res]) of schools, not individual teachers, when teaching remotely:

*They expect schools to:*

* *set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects*
* *set work that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, and as a* ***minimum****:*
	+ *secondary: 4 hours a day, with more for pupils working towards formal qualifications this year*
* *provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos*
* *have systems for checking, at least weekly, whether pupils are engaging with their work, and inform parents immediately where engagement is a concern*
* *gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum using questions and other suitable tasks, and provide feedback, at least weekly, using digitally facilitated or whole-class feedback where appropriate*
* *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*

# Remote learning in the event of extended school closure

In the event of an extended school closure, the school will provide continuity of education in the following ways:

1. Lesson-by-lesson emails will be sent to students from each subject teacher outlining the work for the lesson and advising them of where to look for it (i.e. in Teams); the following email template should be used by all teachers so that students are very clear in how to access their learning:

**SUBJECT LINE TO CONTAIN: SUBJECT – DAY – PERIOD**

**Resources:**All saved in Teams here: [paste in link]

**OR**

**Live lesson link:** use this link to join our lesson at our usual time[paste in here]

1. Teachers will also post work for the week (or possibly a series of lessons) in Assignments; this is the ONLY method of return for students so that feedback can be given where relevant and appropriate; submission can also be tracked.
2. For those with little or no electronic access, paper versions will be posted home, but this is only if the work cannot be accessed at all online via for example phone, tablet or gaming device;
3. Optional, wider reading ASPIRE homework and independent revision skills homework will be set each half-term by RLO and Classcharts points will be awarded to those who submit this work;
4. Feedback will be given in line with each department’s feedback policy (drafts due to be issued before 12th February) and teachers will endeavour to acknowledge each piece of returned work.
5. Positive Classcharts will be awarded for work completed.

The primary platforms the school will use to deliver continuity of education are:

Office 365: Outlook email will be the primary means of initial communication with students, signposting them to work and resources.

Microsoft Teams - This is accessed via the relevant app or desktop application, or via the following URL: <https://teams.microsoft.com>.

School website - This will contain [‘how to access’](https://www.waltonledale.lancs.sch.uk/curriculum/remote-learning) guides for both Classcharts and Teams. It also provides the gateway to Office 365.

The school reserves the right to vary the range of methods used to provide remote learning tasks, feedback and interaction, based on the particular circumstances of any closure and based on our experience.

### Live sessions

***N.B. Teams is the only platform that should be used for ‘live’ lessons (i.e. not Google or Zoom etc.).***

***Personal devices should NOT be used to participate in or deliver live lessons.***

Academic subject areas may also arrange for teaching teachers to deliver content in a ‘live’ manner (either by text or audio and/or visual **means). There is no expectation of teachers to carry out live sessions**. Microsoft Teams allows for resources to be shared, teachers to provide exposition, and students to ask questions in ‘real-time’ using chat function or in the usual way.

Students will be provided with details of session in the weekly email at the start of the week and will be expected to participate in them if they are asked and able to. Live sessions can be particularly helpful as they can facilitate contemporaneous communication, with students able to respond to teachers’ questions (and ask them) via the conversation functionality in Teams.

Whether delivering a live lesson in school or remotely, teachers should **not** broadcast video (I.e. they should have their cameras turned off); similarly, students should **not** broadcast audio or video (I.e. they should have cameras and microphones turned off; the teacher can ensure that microphones are muted using settings). They should communicate using the chat function, unless the teacher gives them permission to unmute.

Teachers who wish to use the audio/video functions must follow the following safeguarding protocols and inform HoD (or SLT link in the event that they are the HoD) in advance of setting up sessions (see also Appendix below).

## Assessment

Providing timely and helpful feedback is a cornerstone of good teaching and learning, and whilst this may be more challenging with remote learning, teachers will endeavour to provide timely feedback to students on pieces of work that they are required to submit. Under normal circumstances, not all pieces of work are formally assessed by teachers and this would continue to be the case should the school employ remote learning. Individual departments have drafted their own feedback policies and these will be published on the website for periods of remote learning.

Possible methods may include:

* Providing whole class feedback rather than feedback on individual pieces of work
* Using the “Comments” function on online documents through Teams
* Sending a direct email to students with specific feedback / targets
* Feedback via another website / piece of software (e.g. OneNote, Hegarty Maths, SenecaLearning, MyMaths, Doddle, Educake etc.)
* Additional functionality is available in Teams, if teachers want to create assignments for students to complete. These might include, for example, the creation of a tailor-made quiz (containing either multiple choice or extended answers) and teachers are able to use assignments to give feedback within Teams.

# Expectations of students

The ‘Expectations’ document published on the [website](https://www.waltonledale.lancs.sch.uk/curriculum/remote-learning) and illustrated below provides a concise checklist of the student’s, teacher’s and parent’s/carer’s responsibilities during this period of remote learning.

Assuming that a student is healthy and well enough to work, students will be expected to participate as fully as possible in the remote learning process, attending relevant live sessions, completing independent work, and submitting assessed tasks promptly and to the best of their ability. Students will also be expected to read and respond to communication from the school (e.g. if they are set extension work, MAD time or an additional challenge) as regularly as they are able without putting themselves under unnecessary additional stress.

In the event of an extended school closure, teachers will continue to deliver content in line with existing schemes of work once the school is reopened; if any student misses significant parts of the content, they will be able to view material posted online and the school will give consideration to the practicalities of helping students to catch up once the school reopens.

Teachers must work on the assumption that students will not necessarily have the full range of books and equipment that they would usually have in school. However, if advance notice is possible, teachers will instruct students to take relevant equipment home. The school will also provide the option for basic equipment (i.e. exercise books) to made available to students, in line with local or national restriction guidelines.

## Expectations of teachers (and subject areas)

Teachers should ensure they have effective internet and a phone connectivity at home. If this is not available for any reason, teachers should discuss this with the School Business Manager. If there are IT related issues while remote working, teachers can contact the IT Manager via email.

The setting and assessment of remote learning tasks will take place in accordance with school and subject area policies. Under normal circumstances, subject areas take different approaches to the setting and assessment of students’ work – for example, the frequency of substantive task set, and the regularity of written assessment provided – and subject area policies will be applied in the event of remote learning.

In order that we are providing a consistent approach, Heads of Faculty and Heads of Department are responsible for overseeing the nature of tasks set and assessed within their subject areas. Therefore, all Heads of Department should ensure that they have access to every teacher’s classes in Teams. All teachers should pay due care to the nature of tasks set, so that students have a range of activities to complete at home and are not exclusively working on a screen. Heads of department and will monitor this and should be included in the tasks set in Teams. Weekly learning should also be organised into weekly folders so that students can access easily.

On a best-endeavour basis, teachers are responsible for providing constructive feedback to their students in a timely manner.

In the event a teacher is unwell during a period of remote learning, it becomes the responsibility of the Head of Department to ensure work is set to her/his classes. In the event that the Head of Department falls ill, it would be up to the second in department (where there is one) or a mutually agreed other member of the department.

Subject areas are expected to:

* Plan and deliver learning (‘live’ or otherwise) in consultation with Heads of Department
* Respond to reasonable amounts of communication from students, parents and teachers
* Plan and set tasks for their students using the blended learning protocols (see end of this document) by dropping work into the class Team (organised into weekly folders) in advance of the lesson.
* Be able to respond to work submitted within a reasonable timeframe.
* Teachers should be available to contact parents if needed, by email or phone (when phoning from personal devices, dialling 141 before the number will ensure the teacher’s own number is kept anonymous). If contact is deemed excessive the line manager will be able to support and, if necessary, escalate to SLT. If parents ask for additional work beyond that set as part of the requirements above, subject areas should refer students to the [Oak National Academy](https://www.thenational.academy/) lessons.

The following protocols are for use in case of school closure of ***prolonged absence of the teacher*** from school. They are in intended to safeguard all concerned.

Delivering Lessons Remotely (i.e. NOT in school)

If Teachers Are Using Teams for Live Video Lessons

Click [here](https://support.microsoft.com/en-gb/office/keeping-students-safe-while-using-meetings-in-teams-for-distance-learning-f00fa399-0473-4d31-ab72-644c137e11c8?ui=en-us&rs=en-gb&ad=gb#ID0EBBAAA=For_educators) for a useful Microsoft tutorial to aid setting up lessons and to ensure safeguarding for staff and students.

**Teachers should:**

* Ensure that their cameras are switched off;
* Double check that any other tabs they have open in their browser would be appropriate for a child to see, if they're sharing their screen;
* Use professional language

**Teachers should also:**

**Script: At the start of a ‘live’ lesson, teachers should ensure that the following points are made clear to their students (in the case of lessons delivered from school, the teacher may wish to paste this script into the chat at the start). An alternative to this, would be to share the ‘starter screen’ below so that these rules are reinforced as students arrive to the vrtual lesson.**

*Please make sure that you are working in in a shared space and* ***not*** *in your bedroom. Make sure that your camera is switched off. I am going to begin this lesson by placing you all on mute. If you would like to ask a question, please click on the ‘raise your hand’ icon and wait to be asked. Remember to click on the icon again, once the question has been answered, to lower your hand. Let anyone nearby know that you are in a live lesson.*

*If at any point, any of these conditions are not met, I will have to end your lesson immediately.*



**Teachers should:**

* keep a register of attendance at live lessons

**Teachers are advised to:**

* Make a recording so there's something to go back to later on if you need to

To [record](https://support.office.com/en-gb/article/record-a-meeting-in-teams-34dfbe7f-b07d-4a27-b4c6-de62f1348c24) in Microsoft Teams:

1. In the meeting, click 'More options' (the 3 dots) > 'Start recording'
2. Wait for the recording to start (you'll get a notification saying 'Recording has started')
3. When you finish, click 'More options' > 'Stop recording'
4. Wait for the recording to be saved in Microsoft Stream (whoever started the recording will get an email notification when it's ready to watch)
5. You have the option to download the video file and save it into Teams with the lesson materials. Otherwise, the video will expire after 28 days.

If Teachers are Recording Videos to Share through YouTube

**Teachers should:**

* Sit against a neutral background
* Sit in an appropriate room (i.e. not bedroom)
* Dress, where possible, like they would for school
* Double check that any other tabs they have open in their browser would be appropriate for a child to see, if they're sharing their screen
* Use professional language

If teachers have a personal account where they have created playlists, they should set up a separate work account.

**Teachers should ensure that:**

* They set their videos to 'Unlisted' so that only people who have the link (e.g. parents who you've emailed) will be able to see the video
* They set the audience as 'Made for kids', so that adverts won't appear at the start of the video, and comments will be disabled

**When uploading videos to YouTube:**

1. Under 'Audience', click 'Yes, it’s made for kids'
2. When they get to the 'Visibility' step, click 'Unlisted'

The following protocols are for use in case of school closure of prolonged absence of the teacher from school. They are in intended to safeguard all concerned.

If Teachers or Support Staff are Phoning Students

**Teachers and support staff should:**

* Do this through parents’ phones or Teams only (unless this itself poses a safeguarding risk) and in all cases make sure parents are aware and agree.
* It is advised to record the meeting, when using Teams, so that you have a record of the meeting for future reference.
* Call in school hours as much as possible.
* Make sure someone else at school is aware, and keep a record of the date and time of each call (or live lesson)
* Have a parent/carer present with the child where possible and have the phone on speaker phone.
* Either use an app like [3CX](https://www.3cx.com/phone-system/android-ios-voip/) that will route calls through your school's number rather than their own, or block your number so parents don't see it.

General Further Considerations

* Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household.
* Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family ‘getting on’ with their day
* Language must be professional and appropriate at all times.
* There should be no other persons in the background for live streaming or recorded lessons.
* Data Controllers (SEC) need to reassure themselves that any teaching/learning software and/or platforms are suitable and raise no privacy issues; or use cases against the providers terms and conditions (for example, no business use of consumer products).
* If teachers are creating live lessons or recorded lessons using ‘off the shelf’ resources, they need to ensure that these are not subject to broadcasting copyright policies.
* When possible, teachers should attempt to have another adult in the meeting/live lesson, although it is recognised that this is not always possible.

In producing this document, guidance from the [NEU](https://neu.org.uk/advice/coronavirus-distance-teaching-and-learning-secondary-teachers) and [NASUWT](https://www.nasuwt.org.uk/advice/health-safety/coronavirus-guidance/arrangements-for-remote-teaching-learning-support.html) has been considered.

An Approach to Planning Remote Learning

WLD’s Teaching and Learning Policy outlines David Didau’s useful evidence-informed approach to planning learning sequences. The Education Endowment Foundation also endorses this approach. This element of planning may still provide a useful focus across - for instance – a week of remote learning (this depends on the frequency of your lessons).

### Learning Sequence – Adapted from ‘The Secret of Literacy’ by David Didau

#### Phase One – some form of ‘live input’ or prepared materials to explain and model

1. **Explain** – set the context and introduce new language. Place the topic in the whole scheme. Link to prior learning. This is the ‘why’.
	1. Use questioning to see whether your explanation has impact and clarity. Only use them to make the explanation clearer. After all, *‘if you can’t explain it simply, then you don’t understand it well enough.’* (Albert Einstein).
	2. Don’t dumb down. Use academic language (see Teacher Planners for Tier 2 Academic Word List).
	3. Allow students time to practice using this academic language.
	4. Prepare concrete examples to show students and add in some close but non-examples too (i.e. an onomatopoeia is a sound effect word like boom or crash. ‘Explosion’ is not an onomatopoeia; it is a non-example).
	5. Address misconceptions
2. **Model** – model and deconstruct.
	1. Use WAGOLLs to show the success criteria in action
	2. Clearly define the success criteria

#### Phase 2 – independent work at home, making use of carefully thought-out resources

1. **Scaffold** – should not be used to make the work easier, but is should make the work possible. In order for it to work well, scaffolding should get the student interested; should be simple enough to allow them to attempt it; should give specific ideas of how to attempt the task; and should deal with their frustrations at ‘not getting it.’
2. **Practice** – independently

This element may need tweaking as it usually relies on oracy. You may offer an opportunity at some point in the week for students to go through their work in small groups with you, either via video call or via ‘chat’; you could then **clarify, probe and recommend**.

## Research-Informed Approaches

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Remote_learning_evidence_review/Rapid_Evidence_Assessment_summary.pdf>

The acronym REMOTE has been coined to summarise the research emerging from the EEF’s Covid-19 studies PLUS Rosenshine’s Principles of Instruction (which underpin the school’s *Teaching and Learning Policy*):

**R** – retrieval and recap activities. Low-stakes. Quick feedback. Self-marking.

**E** – Engage students – stimulus (use the planning template from EEF), questions, ‘chat’, feedback etc.

**M** – motivate through peer interaction (peer marking, sharing WAGOLLs, prompt live discussion through ‘chat’ function of Teams)

**O** – Outcomes – make explicit using check lists, success criteria, weekly plan/big picture etc. INTENT.

**T** – Teaching quality – this is more important than how it is delivered. Think about how you assess what students have learnt.

**E** – Expectations – be realistic but aspirational.

One Page Summary

## Process for Organising a ‘Live’ Lesson

The process will be reviewed regularly in the initial stages and adjusted as necessary to make it workable for all concerned.

### Before the Event

* Identify the group to be taught ‘live’.
* Teacher to send invitations through Teams in email before the lesson begins to the members of the class **plus one other member of staff (preferably HoD)** where possible.
* Ensure that resources for the lesson are stored in the appropriate folder within the class Team before the lesson begins.

### At the Start of the Event

* Teacher starts recording the lesson.
* Teacher ensures that all students are muted.
* Teacher reminds all students to immediately turn cameras off.
* Teacher reads the safeguarding script.
* Teacher then takes a register.
* Teacher checks that he/she recognises all students in the meeting.
* Teacher begins the lesson.

### After the Lesson

* If any incidents arise, they should be reported to HoD and/SLT link immediately and documented in an email to them.

# Safeguarding Script

**Script: At the start of a ‘live’ lesson, teachers should say the following words to their students:**

*Please make sure that you are working in in a shared space and* ***not*** *in your bedroom. Make sure that your camera is switched off. I am going to begin this lesson by placing you all on mute. If you would like to ask a question, please click on the ‘raise your hand’ icon and wait to be asked. Remember to click on the icon again, once the question has been answered, to lower your hand. Let anyone nearby know that you are in a live lesson.*

*If at any point, any of these conditions are not met, I will have to end your lesson immediately.*

## Moving Forward – Blended Learning protocols (updated 01/01/2020)

To manage the workload of teachers and support staff in setting work for **absent students (i.e. due to illness or isolation)**, the following blended approach should be ***adopted*** by all teachers and should be ***known*** by appropriate support staff.

**Teachers should:**

* Ensure that the lesson material/resources are available in the relevant folder in the class Team ***BEFORE*** the lesson begins. This will avoid interruptions during lesson time.
* Ensure that there is enough work in line with timetable allocation each week (i.e. if they have 3 hours of English then the work set should take roughly three hours).
* Where possible, signpost Oak National Academy videos or other suitable video resources for students to access.

**Students should:**

* Access the work in each of their class Teams **for the current week** of absence in the event of being absent (including being isolated) from the lesson.
* Consolidate their learning from **previous weeks** by accessing previous lesson resource folders in their class Teams. They should also ensure that all Assignments are up-to-date and submitted;
* Once complete, all work should be submitted via Assignments.

## Partial School Closure – T&L Protocol

In case of partial school closure, class teachers should follow this guide.

1. **EMAIL** – Before the lesson, then email work (including links to the weekly lesson folder in Teams) to the class email using Outlook for those accessing the work asynchronously. Ensure that all work that is required to be returned is set through Assignments in Teams.
2. Go to timetabled classroom even if the class is absent.
3. **LOG IN** - Log into Teams and open class Team for this absent class.
4. **CHAT** - Open the ‘chat’ function of the class Team and make contact with the class. It is located in the ‘General’ menu for the class Team.

 

1. **CHECK IN** - Ask students to message you so that you know who is ‘online’ at that point. Direct them again towards the lesson resources for the lesson (although you will have emailed them links to this previously). You can do this by messaging them and copying in the link to the lesson materials folder for the appropriate week.
2. **INTERACT** - Remain in communication with students for the duration of the timetabled lesson.
3. **CLOSE** - At the end of the lesson, let the class know that you are ending the lesson in the ‘chat function’.





1. Please note that in this sense, ‘remote learning’ refers to any learning completed outside of school. The school’s approach to ‘blended learning’ is outlined in the ‘Teaching and Learning Policy 2020-21' [↑](#footnote-ref-1)