



ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL, NEWRY

Blended Learning Policy **June 2020**

Rationale

Due to Coronavirus, all students will have a phased return to school at the start of the 2020-2021 academic year. During this time students will experience '**Blended Learning**'. This means that in addition to normal school days where their learning takes place in the classroom, face to face with their subject teachers, there will be designated days in the week where they will be required to complete work independently at home. During these designated days of learning from home, some of the work will require pupils to complete online learning tasks and activities.

All students have been provided with a timetable clearly informing them of which days of the week they are required to be in school attending classes. During the other days they will be required to learn independently from home under the support and guidance of their subject teachers. This may involve students using one of, or a combination of, the following learning platforms:

- Showbie
- Google Classrooms
- Microsoft Teams
- Collaborate Ultra

During this time of 'Blended Learning', students may be permitted by subject teachers to use their mobile phones in class for the sole purpose of learning. The above platforms will be used by teachers to set work for students, to teach students online and to allow students to upload their completed work. It is important that pupils, parents/guardians and teaching staff work together to ensure that all students have equal access to quality education within this period of blended learning.

Blended Learning – Expectations of Class Teachers

- Keep up-to-date with current developments and initiatives to support and promote blended learning
- Create a purposeful, supportive learning environment which motivates students and encourages them to become actively involved in their own learning within a blended learning approach to education

- Teachers will provide appropriate work for students to complete while learning from home during designated days
- Share learning intentions and success criteria with students, encouraging them to take greater ownership for their individual learning when working at home
- Have realistic expectations of all students which considers equality of access to quality home learning
- Teachers create a child centered, supportive blended learning environment where all students are treated with equality and fairness
- Students are given opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in e-learning to support effective home learning
- Teachers make use of a wide range of blended learning strategies which match the identified educational needs of pupils including Newcomer pupils and those pupils with Special Educational Needs
- Foster a high quality, individual learning environment, which supports and encourages all pupils to achieve their full potential
- Teachers give students clear guidance both written and verbal on the quality of their work and effort, highlighting areas and strategies for improvement within a blended learning approach
- Teachers use appropriate forms of assessment that reflect the blended learning strategies that are used.
- Assessment is used by teachers to reward a student's effort/achievements but also to encourage them to reflect and improve upon current performance.

Blended Learning –Expectations of Students

- Students will value their education through good attendance and punctuality on the days they are scheduled to be at school.
- Come to classes prepared for learning, with all the necessary books and equipment
- Complete all set work to a high standard by the required date
- Record all homework and home study tasks into their homework diary
- Using the Home Study timetable, dedicate appropriate time for completing school work when learning from home
- Regularly check appropriate online platforms for information from their class teachers
- Engage with all remote learning/lessons
- Identify a comfortable and quiet space where they can study/learn at home
- Submit all work using the format directed by each of their subject teachers
- To abide by the school's expectations when using digital technologies
- Any Key Stage 4 or 5 student who wishes to use their own laptop in school must sign the school's Bring Your Own Device Policy (BYOD)
- To ensure they only use their C2K accounts when communicating with staff and other students in relation to teaching and learning activities
- To keep all digital technologies safe and secure when in school

- To use mobile phones in class only when instructed by teachers and for learning purposes only
- If a student is taking part in any online lessons, they must do so in an appropriate place at home and not from their bedroom
- Students must inform their parents/guardians prior to taking part in online lessons
- If a student is experiencing any difficulties with their work, or needs further advice or clarification when learning from home, it is their responsibility to contact the relevant subject teacher using their C2K e-mail address.

Blended Learning –Expectations of Parents/Guardians

- Parents support school policies and procedures to facilitate blended learning
- Parents ensure their daughter’s good attendance and punctuality on the days she is scheduled to be in school and ensure she spends sufficient and quality time completing school work on those days when she is learning from home
- Download the school app to receive all school communications
- Inform the school if there are any problems that prevent their daughter from learning/working at home
- Develop strong and supportive links between home and school by checking and signing their daughter’s diary each week and ensuring she completes all set work when learning from home
- Create a supportive environment that is conducive to home study including access to technology and the internet
- Monitor the time their daughter spends at home on their learning activities
- Ensure all work is completed to a high standard, coursework deadlines are met and adequate time is spent revising for examinations both internal and external.

Related Whole School Policies:

This policy is set within the broader school context of the curriculum and as such should be implemented in conjunction with the following policies:

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| • Curriculum Policy | • Inclusion Policy |
| • E-Safety Policy | • CRED Policy |
| • Learning and Teaching Policy | • Homework Policy |
| • Assessment Policy | • Child Protection Policy |
| • SEN Policy | • BYOD Policy |
| • Pastoral Care Policy | • Attendance Policy |

All policies are available from the school website www.stmarysnewry.com.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review:

The Principal and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the curriculum provisions in the school.

