



Magor CIW Primary Blended and Distance Learning Strategy

January 2021

Agreed by Full Governing Body 10th December 2020

Our Vision is that...

Magor Church in Wales Primary School is committed to delivering on its core business of 'learning' and to building the necessary knowledge and competencies for all children to thrive and succeed in learning and life.

We believe that face to face learning and distance learning should complement each other and be driven by a single curriculum, underpinned by high quality teaching and pupil voice, providing equitable access for all, including the digitally disadvantaged.

Our Blended and Distance Learning philosophy and approach is underpinned by ensuring learners' and families' wellbeing is a priority. The emotional needs of your child comes first. If your child is feeling worried or anxious, we trust you will make the right decision for your family. If you would benefit from cuddling up with a book as a family, exercising the dog, or enjoying a movie together at home, we would encourage you to do so - family comes first.

Developing a blend of in-school and out-of-school learning approaches is a necessity as we move forward in these times of uncertainty. Children may have to spend time away from school either because they are unwell, in self isolation following contact with a positive case of Covid-19, or a period of partial or full forced school closure. Whatever the situation we committed to ensuring children to continue to learn whilst at home.

The term ***blended learning*** is an approach to education that combines learning from home alongside traditional face-to-face classroom methods. Face-to-face learning and distance learning will complement each other and are driven by a single curriculum. ***Distance learning*** may include the use of online educational materials and opportunities for online interaction.








The COVID-19 pandemic will have impacted everyone differently. How and when you will be able to engage in your child's learning from home will differ depending on your own unique situation. We know that many of you will be caring for toddlers, some of you will be working from home and trying to juggle the household, learning and working all in close quarters, some will be going out to work and coming home tired and others' work situations may have changed altogether and created uncertainty as a result of COVID-19.

During an enforced time away from school we hope for all children to engage in the activities we will continue to design and provide for distance learning. For some an hour a day may be a success, for others a usual school day timespan will be possible. We want to reassure you to trust your judgement, trust that you will make the best decision for your family and engage when possible.

We will aim to provide a range of well-planned sequential learning experiences which inspire and motivate children to engage. Supporting learners' literacy, numeracy and social and emotional needs and wellbeing will be our priorities.

Our distance learning approach requires learning to be shared with you and your child online through safe digital platforms. We would however like to reinforce that we advocate for a balance of both on and offline learning.

Our approach embraces key digital ways of sharing and engaging in continued learning:

	<p>Hwb is a website hosting a wide collection of online tools. It is provided to all schools in Wales by the Welsh Government. It can be used to access resources and platforms for collaboration such as Microsoft Teams, J2e and Google Classroom.</p>
	<p>Google Classroom is the area where all Year 1 – Year 6 work will be posted as assignments. Learners can engage interactively as well as upload documents and work collaboratively.</p>
	<p>Office 365 is accessible to all learners through Hwb. This is where pupils can access secure email from class teachers and peers. This is also where you can access Microsoft Teams.</p>
	<p>Just2easy or J2e for short is an area that stores a number of programs to support all areas of learning. It is very user friendly. Pupils can upload work quickly within this area.</p>
	<p>Microsoft Teams allows for live teacher interaction with groups of learners. Team meetings will be scheduled every week to enable groups of learners to come together and share experiences. This is also an area where class information can be shared.</p>
	<p>Seesaw is the app used by Nursery and Reception classes to share learning.</p>
	<p>This is a tool within Hwb that we are working to develop. It allows videos to be posted by the teacher with direct instruction. Pupils are able to post videos and to view other pupils in the class.</p>

Area:	Children self-isolating and awaiting test results (2-3 days absence)	Provision during a 14 day isolation for individual pupils *Nursery and Reception classes will provide an age appropriate provision	Provision during an extended class or school closure / lockdown *Nursery and Reception classes will provide an age appropriate provision
Language, Literacy and Communication	(If child is well enough) Learning accessed on our school website https://www.magorciwprimary.co.uk/distance-learning Children can also complete their weekly homework and spelling tasks.	(If child is well enough) One daily literacy lesson Additional learning can be accessed on our school website https://www.magorciwprimary.co.uk/distance-learning/	One daily literacy lesson
Mathematics and Numeracy	Tasks provided via Google Classroom / Seesaw.	One daily mathematics lesson	One daily mathematics lesson
Other Areas of Learning		One weekly Welsh lesson One weekly RE lesson Two weekly topic based lessons. Wellbeing Wednesday: Screen free day where all activities are wellbeing based.	One weekly Welsh lesson One weekly RE lesson Two weekly topic based lessons. Wellbeing Wednesday: Screen free day where all activities are wellbeing based.
Contact with Families	Contact via school office if necessary. Pupils can communicate with teachers via HWB.	Teacher / pupil communication once weekly via Hwb or phone call.	Y1 to Y6 Pupil TEAMS meeting with whole class and their teacher (plus one other member of staff) At scheduled times Monday and Friday mornings. (meeting links will be sent by staff) Nursery and Reception will interact via seesaw.
Feedback to pupils	Feedback given on return to school.	Acknowledgement given and feedback given on any work submitted digitally.	Acknowledgement given and feedback given on any work submitted digitally.

What is provided by the school to support your child's distance learning will depend upon the reason for the absence. In the case of elective absences from school, the class teacher will not be providing additional work due to ongoing teaching commitments.

In the case of an extended lockdown with sufficient notice, we will aim to provide an exercise book for the children to complete their distance learning. A list of children's login details and passwords will also be sent home if required. We will spend time in school training children to access digital learning platforms and use them independently.

Where possible please support your child in their learning activities and challenges. Try to help them uncover information for themselves, rather than giving them the answers.

We **expect all children to share at least one activity from the day** with their teacher for feedback. Children in **Years 1-6** will upload this to their Google Classroom. In **Nursery and Reception** evidence of learning will be uploaded to SeeSaw where possible.

Please support your child with uploading work (photos, videos or the work itself produced digitally) to their designated platform and discuss teacher feedback with your child, and help them to action suggestions. Celebrate their successes with them, just as we will at the end of each week of distance learning.

Teachers will be available online for pupils during the working week between 8.45am and 3.30pm, with the exception of wellbeing Wednesdays. Teachers will use this day as PPA to prepare and plan for the following week and assess learning from the previous week. Any parental enquiries should be made via the school office and not via seesaw / HWB.

In the case of a member of teaching staff being unwell and unable to provide blended learning opportunities for their class, another member of staff will take over their responsibilities.

Whilst no one is sure yet how long a blended approach to learning will continue, we are optimistic that it won't last forever. Children take cues from adult behaviour and attitudes, so it is important to communicate calm, confidence and optimism that we will pull through the crisis together. Managing our own emotions will help our children stay focused on learning and looking forward to a time when they can be back in school full time and learning face to face with their teachers and friends.

We are fully aware of what the reality of 'distance' really means -

- * For children: Missing the social aspect of school and the daily interactions with their friends and teachers. Lack of instant communication, guidance and feedback, children can't reach teachers or classmates when they need them most, and video lessons and calls are often not enough to fully understand their learning tasks. Some will struggle with too much independence or lack of structure, although some will benefit from self-pacing their learning.

- * For parents: The anxiety of receiving on line learning guidance, multiple resources (which although of the highest online quality, can never match the detailed and responsive learning offer that takes place in the school) managing their children's responses, trying to give feedback and missing the ongoing dialogue with teachers, not to mention managing 'working from home'.

* For teachers: The acute awareness that it is impossible to replicate the intricate world of the classroom, the vital social interactions taking place as children learn to be part of a wider world, the careful honing of individual programmes for each child, so that their learning matches their personal trajectory. The pressure of working from home whilst also balancing their own family commitments.

We must manage the expectations that we place on ourselves and our children through the complexity of Distance Learning and home schooling our children. None of us could ever have imagined that we would have found ourselves in this position. At this time, life has never, ever, seemed so precious – and the time we have with our children should be, must be, happy and cherished.

Suggested Wellbeing Wednesday Activities:

Wellbeing Wednesdays

Wednesdays are a wellbeing focus day where we will all be avoiding screen time where possible. Below is a sample menu to give you some ideas of things you can do.

- 1 Get active. Even if you're stuck indoors, move & stretch
- 2 Contact a neighbour or friend and offer to help them
- 3 Share what you are feeling and be willing to ask for help
- 4 Take five minutes to sit still and breathe. Repeat regularly
- 5 Call a loved one to catch up and really listen to them
- 6 Immerse yourself in a new book, TV show or podcast
- 7 Respond positively to everyone you interact with
- 8 Play a game that you enjoyed when you were younger
- 9 Make some progress on a project that matters to you
- 10 Rediscover your favourite music that really lifts your spirits
- 11 Do three acts of kindness to help others, however small
- 12 Make time for self-care. Do something kind for yourself
- 13 Send a letter or message to someone you can't be with
- 14 Find positive stories in the news and share these with others
- 15 Have a tech-free day. Stop scrolling and turn off the news
- 16 Take a small step towards an important goal
- 17 Thank three people you're grateful to and tell them why
- 18 Make a plan to meet up with others again later in the year
- 19 Connect with nature. Breathe and notice life continuing
- 20 Remember that all feelings and situations pass in time