



Brighouse High School

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Dear Parent / Carer

We hope you, your children and your families are well. I know that this period of lock down and remote learning might be stressful for you and so I thought I would re-issue some of our answers to questions that have been frequently asked by parents and carers of pupils with SEND.

If you are anxious about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to email me at

c.horsfield@brighouse.calderdale.sch.uk

so that I can assign one of our SEND team to you for remote learning support.

FAQs

What is expected of pupils during this time? Do they have to work for 5 hours solid a day and follow their timetable?

Pupils are expected to be at home completing some school work during school hours. They should try to complete tasks set in Google Classroom. Pupils should try to complete a task set in each google classroom, for each subject they would have if they were in school. They don't have to stick to their timetable rigidly but pupils should ensure that they have a balance between subject areas. Some teachers will set assignments with deadlines to complete tasks by, pupils should aim to meet those deadlines.

We do appreciate though that students will need to break the day up; it is really important for them to be given the opportunity to allow them to have a break from studying and switch their minds to something else for a while.

Where is the work they need to do and who sets it?

Pupils should access Google Classrooms for their set work, which is set by subject teachers. Some pupils have been provided with paper-based Home Learning Packs which are regularly posted home. However, wherever possible we want pupils to be engaging with the online provision which can be tailored specifically to their learning needs and is far more immediate. Please email l.silverwood@brighouse.calderdale.sch if you have issues with remote access to technology.

Where can they get support? What if the work is too hard for them?

We understand that our pupils will be missing the level of support and explanation they get at school and also appreciate that many of you will be working from home whilst trying to support them too - making the need for them to be able to work independently even greater.

Pupils can only do what they can do; they should not panic if something is too challenging for them. The extent to which pupils can have work tailored to their own needs in this format of learning is more limiting than face to face lessons, so we have to do the best we can at this time.

This is why we have set up various support mechanisms to help.

The main ways of getting help or finding additional resources are:

- 1) Email – pupils can of course email their specific teachers if they wish - this can be done directly or through the google classroom if they are unsure of the email address.
- 2) Some good materials are also being published by BBC Bitesize.
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

Pupils can use these lessons as an alternative if they are really struggling to complete work set for any subject.

The BBC is also creating televised teaching sessions on CBBC and BBC2 on terrestrial TV.

- 3) In addition to this, the Oak National Academy has an enormous variety of pre-recorded lessons at both primary and secondary level.

www.thenational.academy

[as does Invicta Academy at https://www.invictaacademy.com/keep-britain-learning](https://www.invictaacademy.com/keep-britain-learning)

[This site also offers some live learning sessions.](#)

There are also some further DfE publications that you may find useful:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-children-with-send-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

What if they are finding the amount of work overwhelming?

We have to ensure that there is plenty of work for everyone to be getting on with, but in turn this means that some pupils will not complete anywhere near all of the work set - this is fine! So long as they are working and engaging in as many tasks as they can, it doesn't need to be a worry.

If you feel this is the case for your child, you can always contact me at

c.horsfield@brighthouse.calderdale.sch.uk or their Head of Year to inform us of this so that your child's class teachers can be made aware.

You may find it helpful to supplement your child's home learning with more practical, life-skills based activities and projects, such as home baking, gardening, arts and crafts or completing a research project. These will also be valuable activities for your child which can enable them to apply a wide range of skills.

Are they falling behind? Should they be learning new things?

It's very difficult to teach new material remotely, for the time being, the focus should be on overlearning of content that pupils have already covered. This can only be beneficial to them so please try not to worry, they will catch up so long as they continue learning to keep their memories active.

I am concerned about the emotional well-being of my child, where can I access resources to support them with this?

Some of our young people are finding life difficult during the school closures and this period of lockdown.

Open Minds has two sections on their website aimed at providing information and support around the coronavirus outbreak and help with bullying. These sections have been created to support children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing in this confusing period.

www.openmindscalderdale.org.uk

Kooth is an online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people, accessible through a mobile, tablet and desktop and free at the point of use.

www.kooth.com

Finally, please do try not to worry. These are challenging times for us all. The mental health and emotional wellbeing of our young people is of paramount importance to us and this should always take priority. We are here to support you and our pupils as best we can in these unprecedented circumstances in which we find ourselves.

We really look forward to seeing all of our young people back in school as soon as it is safe to do so.

Please continue to stay safe and take care of yourselves and your families.

Best wishes

Claire Horsfield

Assistant Headteacher and SENDCO