

## Covid-19 - SEND FAQs in the event of partial school closure or individual isolation – September 2020

We realise that in the event of a partial school closure, or individuals having to self-isolate, some of our pupils will have more difficulty accessing their school work than others.

So, below are the answers to some of the questions that you might have:

### **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 for each subject on the 'Covid-19 Remote Learning' section of the website. Pupils should try to complete a task set, 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.

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?**

Departments have set work in the 'Covid-19 Remote Learning' section of the website. The work for all subjects is divided up into 2 week periods, so that pupils know what work they should be completing during any period of time to ensure that they are keeping up-to-date. If pupils are finding it difficult to access these resources electronically, please let us know so that we can send them some paper-based tasks.

### **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 very limited with the resources we have, 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 are;

- 1) Email – pupils can of course email their teacher if they wish too - 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](http://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.

3) In addition to this, the Oak National Academy website, launched during the national lock down, includes video lessons and activities each week covering Maths, English and Foundation subjects at both primary and secondary level.

[www.thenational.academy](http://www.thenational.academy)

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

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

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

### **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 (Mrs Horsfield) at [c.horsfield@brighthouse.calderdale.sch.uk](mailto:c.horsfield@brighthouse.calderdale.sch.uk) or their Head of Year to inform them 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 found things a little difficult during school closures and lockdown.

Open Minds has launched two new sections on the 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](http://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](http://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.

They will be fine, they just need to do their best and we will do all we can to get them back on track when they are back in school.

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

Best wishes

Claire Horsfield

Assistant Headteacher and Acting SENDCO