

The British School of Bahrain Blended Learning Environment during COVID-19



Teaching & Learning Policy

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1.0 Introduction

The strategic vision for online education aligns with the BSB Strategic Aims to be a national model for providing a supportive, high-quality, and affordable educational experience that has a positive impact on students and the community. BSB will deliver an online educational experience that enhances access, meets emerging needs and interests, and maintains the quality of the BSB experience.

All BSB Policies still operate under a Blended Learning Environment

2.0 Infant School Teaching & Learning

- 2.1 Under normal circumstances, the routine of the school day is designed to best support children's learning in all areas of development. This includes a curriculum that provides for reading, writing, maths, topic, Arabic and specialist subjects. However, most educators would agree that the 'incidental' learning that takes place during the school day is at least, if not more beneficial than the curriculum delivered. In the ebb and flow of natural conversation, teachers continuously respond to children, seizing opportunities to foster independence, self-worth, empathy and curiosity. Magical moments in the classroom, when a child catches a friend's eye, establishes a conversation or sparks spontaneous laughter are great motivators for learning and can be hard to recreate remotely.
- 2.2 We are therefore delighted that schools are able to open for students. The School will continue to ensure that the learning environment is safe for the school community. Initially, classroom space will have to be optimised to ensure that children will be able to interact while remaining socially distanced. To facilitate this, we have created a model for Blended Learning.
- 2.3 All children in a particular Year Group will be in school on the same days of the week. This will be accompanied with all specialist lessons being taught.
- 2.4 Based on current guidelines from the MoE, during their time at the BSB campus, students will be based in a single classroom throughout the day, working in a half class 'bubble' which will be separate from other class' bubbles', but all within the broader Infant School Blue Bubble
- 2.5 Lessons in School will focus on:
 - **English**
 - **Mathematics**
 - **Topic**
 - **PSHE**
- 2.6 During their classroom time, teachers assess children's progress, continuously and formatively, in order to identify and prioritise each child's next steps. This is communicated to the children during the course of the school day, as well as during live teaching sessions.

3.0 Junior School Teaching & Learning

3.1 Students' needs must be met in various ways, to ensure the best possible learning. Safety, security and belonging raise children's self-esteem, giving them a basis from which to move forward in their learning. In an ideal world, these educational needs are best met in the classroom environment. During the current situation, we must do the best we can to provide access to the classroom, while maintaining the highest possible standards of safety. The optimal way to achieve that, under current circumstances, is through a Blended Learning approach. With the right balance of face-to-face classroom teaching and remote learning, we can teach the whole child and help them maximize their potential, gaining the knowledge, skills and attributes necessary for life in the twenty-first century.

3.2 In Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6), learning in the core subjects is driven forward by students' interaction with their teacher. Research undertaken with Key Stage 2 students in the UK, in 2014, found that Blended Learning leads to:

- Greater engagement in learning;
- An improvement in attitude toward learning;
- An increase in learning outside of the physical classroom through online 'classrooms'.

3.3 During their time in school, students in Years 3 to 6 will be based in a single classroom throughout the day, working in a 'bubble' based on MoE guidelines, separate from other 'bubbles'.

3.4 Lessons will focus on

- **English** - speaking, listening, reading and literacy;
- **Mathematics** - numeracy, spatial awareness, problem-solving and data handling;
- **Science** - topical knowledge and understanding, investigation and the scientific method;
- **Humanities** - topical knowledge and understanding
- **Art & Design** - skills, techniques and media;
- **PSHE** - as needs occur within the group, including pastoral needs arising from the global situation.

3.5 Each lesson imparts knowledge and skills for students to utilise during their time out of school each week. Students are advantaged by low student:teacher ratios during the in-class time, thanks to the Blended Learning model. Where appropriate, lessons end with open questions for students to pursue during their remote learning time at home. During their classroom time, teachers assess students' progress, continuously and formatively, in order to identify and prioritise each student's next learning targets.

3.6 Subjects that would normally involve a single teacher and many classes will be taught slightly differently. Rather than have groups of children moving around school physically. Online lessons are taught, via Google Classroom and Zoom, in the subjects listed below. Each lesson comprises live-streamed teaching, independent activities as appropriate, and opportunities for students to ask and answer questions.

- Arabic - taught in sets based on prior experience and attainment;
- Citizenship - for those registered at school as Arab country nationals;

- Computing - coding, information/communication technology, 21st-century skills;
- Drama - self-expression through movement and mime, scripting;
- French - acquisition of vocabulary, skills of pronunciation, reading comprehension and writing;
- Islamic Studies/RE - taught in sets based on registered religious affiliation at BSB;
- Music - composition, performances submitted online;
- PE - challenges and activities, with motivational videos and an online points system;
- Assemblies - an important part of each school week, when students and teachers gather virtually, to celebrate achievements and hear announcements.

3.7 Synchronous learning (where children take part in a live-streamed, interactive lesson) is complemented by asynchronous, independent learning.

3.8 Blended learning provides the most favourable environment available, to stimulate and nurture progress, both academically and holistically, throughout this phased reopening process.

4.0 Senior School Teaching & Learning

4.1 Blended learning is very different from remote learning and will be an enhancement of our provision. Lessons will be accessible to both students in the classroom and students at home, through carefully selected activities, resources and technology. Students will be expected to interact with each other through the remote learning platform, in order to discuss, analyse, interpret and present information. Many elements of traditional teaching will continue to be evident through the use of technology.

4.2 Students in Years 7-9, who have selected blended learning, may attend school on all 5 days of the week. If any students on remote learning would like to sign up to blended learning, they should contact pa2seniors@thebsbh.com to request this. The student will be added to a waiting list until the request can be safely accommodated.

4.3 Students in years 10-13, may attend school every day of the week.

4.4 Students are expected to own their own laptop in the Senior School. Students should be using an appropriate device to access lessons and resources both remotely and in School. All devices must be fully charged before bringing them to school, and a charger brought to School so that it can be plugged in if required during the day. A mobile phone is not an appropriate device, mainly as they are not compatible with our WiseFlow assessments, and will therefore not be permitted to be used within the classroom.

4.5 This will continue to be the place for students to access everything they need for each subject and lesson. Resources, remote meeting links, assignments and more information will be accessible here. All parents will be added to their child's Google Classroom as a guardian, which will ensure a weekly email summary of assignments set and completed.

4.6 All resources used for lessons will be posted on google classroom along with lesson notes and meeting links. Where possible, ebooks have been purchased as part of our move towards BYOD, which will ensure students have access to these even when not in School.

- 4.7 Every lesson will be live-streamed via Zoom, requiring students to connect via their school email account. All students will be expected to connect to this stream in each lesson, in order to interact with their peers within and outside the classroom.