

FAQs from the EIS Blended and Remote Learning – what’s in the mix? Webinar held on Wednesday 2nd November, 2020.

- ***I don’t have suitable hardware and I’ve repeatedly asked for it but the local authority hasn’t provided it. Any advice?***

Paragraph 7.0 of the EIS Guidance on Blended and Remote Learning makes it clear that: ‘Local Authorities should be responsible for the provision of all required hardware and software in relation to any recording or live streaming of lessons from home.’

Paragraph 7.5 goes on to provide that ‘teachers delivering remote teaching should also be furnished with the appropriate resources as required from the school or Local Authority to facilitate the delivery of teaching in this manner.’

If you are being asked to deliver online teaching and do not have the required hardware to do so, then you should raise this in the first instance with the Senior Management Team in your school and make reference to this guidance. Your EIS school rep and/or Local Association Secretary will know what has been agreed at LNCT and will be able to provide additional support, if necessary.

- ***I’m supply, can I access Education Scotland links referred to in this webinar?***

The links to the materials provided by Education Scotland are available on their website and are freely available to all.

- ***If you are not fully class committed, what are your requirements when self-isolating if your school hasn’t given anything to specially work on?***

Much will depend on what you are contracted to do during the period of the contract for which you are not class committed. If it is possible for you to continue with this work, then you should do so. If this is not possible, then we recommend that you raise this with your line manager and through collegiate discussion, agree how this time can best be used to support teaching and learning, in line with a whole school approach to address the challenges of the pandemic.

- ***Will we be obliged to video teach if we were to move to blended learning?***

Paragraph 2.3 of the EIS Guidance on Blended and Remote Learning outlines that ‘there is no explicit statement in teachers’ contracts in relation to delivering online lessons and unlike the UK Government, the Scottish Government has not used its legal powers to instruct remote or online teaching. The EIS believes that teacher staffing of online learning, whether delivered by teachers working from school or at home, should be voluntary.’

In the context of both blended and remote learning, we would expect a collegiate approach to be adopted and the first step is to find out what has been agreed locally at the LNCT.

LNCT agreements should ensure that all relevant circumstances are considered when determining if the delivery of online teaching is necessary and possible. They should also make provision for

the potential of the different home and personal circumstances of teachers, some of which might render the delivery of live or pre-recorded lessons from home a significant challenge.

If a teacher is concerned for any reason about being asked to deliver live or pre-recorded lessons, they should raise these concerns with the school management team and seek advice and support as necessary from their EIS school representative or Local Association Secretary.

- ***I've been asked to include a pupil who is shielding in a video lesson using Teams. What is the EIS position on this?***

The EIS is clear that live streaming and recording of in-class lessons is not an acceptable practice, either pedagogically or in terms of conditions of service.

A limited exception to this relates to the use of limited live streaming of student teacher "expositions" which are governed by specific parameters and protocols, and are primarily focussed on supporting the student teacher.

You should refer to paragraph 3.4 of the EIS Guidance and highlight this to your line manager in the first instance. Your EIS school rep and/or Local Association Secretary will be able to provide additional support, if required.

- ***How are schools managing the staggered starts? Our children are in 15 minutes before normal starting time which means normal prep time is reduced as the children are in the class. How does that impact on class contact time for the teachers?***

Much will depend on the agreements which have been reached at school level and who is responsible for the supervision of the children over this period.

If you are responsible for supervision of the children at these times, then this would form part of your 22.5 hours class contact time.

If you are not responsible for the supervision of the children at these times, then you can continue to use this period for preparation time.

- ***What do you do when self-isolating or shielding pupils appear not to be engaging with learning which has sent to them?***

Where a pupil is self-isolating or shielding and remote access to teaching is being provided, the arrangements and protocols in place should reflect the needs of the individual pupil in line with GIRFEC principles.

The engagement of the pupil and progress made will be assessed on an ongoing basis in line with good pedagogical practice and the principles of formative assessment. Where there are concerns about engagement, progress or the health and wellbeing of the pupil, then consideration should be given to the potential reasons for this. Reflective practice and open dialogue with the pupil and/or parents/carers, where appropriate, may assist in identifying a way forward.

Where appropriate, a Child's Plan may help to identify the necessary supports and appropriate pedagogical approach to address the challenges identified.

Arrangements for the delivery of remote teaching should be underpinned by the principle of equity, and provision made to ensure that pupils impacted by poverty have access to appropriate resources to maximise engagement with learning and to address the poverty-related attainment gap.

Your school's Learning and Teaching Policy may provide specific guidance on the approach to be adopted at a local level. If you are unsure about local arrangements, you can discuss this with the Senior Management Team and/or your EIS school rep.