



Phased return of secondary school learners from 15 March 2021: possible models

Audience

Secondary school practitioners, local authorities.

Overview

This document provides potential models for the design and delivery of provision for secondary school learners from 15 March 2021 in line with the additional flexibility offered to schools as announced by the Minister for Education on 3 March 2021.

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-flexible-return-education-next-steps>

These models have been developed by headteachers from a range of schools, reflecting the priorities and circumstances of their school.

Action required

For information

Further information

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Welsh Government Education



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Additional copies

This document can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at <https://hwb.gov.wales/distance-learning/sharing-our-experiences>.

Related documents

Operational guidance for schools and settings

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.



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School 1

A large 11-19 school, with nearly 30% of pupils eligible for free school meals.

Week 1 – 15 March

Year Group	Mon March 15th	Tue March 16th	Wed March 17th	Thurs March 18th	Fri March 19th
7	Online - Live lessons	Online - Live lessons	Online - Live lessons	Online - Live lessons	In school normal timetable with wellbeing check in
8	Online - Live lessons	Online - Live lessons	Online - Live lessons	In school normal timetable with wellbeing check in	Online - Live lessons
9	Online - Live lessons	Online - Live lessons	In school normal timetable with wellbeing check in	Online - Live lessons	Online - Live lessons
10	Online - Live lessons	Online - Live lessons	In school normal timetable with wellbeing check in	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable
11	In school normal timetable with wellbeing check in	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable
12	Online - Live lessons	In school normal timetable with wellbeing check in	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable
13	In school normal timetable with wellbeing check in	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable

Week 2 – 22 March

Year Group	Mon March 15th	Tue March 16th	Wed March 17th	Thurs March 18th	Fri March 19th
7	Online - Live lessons	In school normal timetable with wellbeing check in	Online - Live lessons	Online - Live lessons	Online - Live lessons
8	Online - Live lessons	Online - Live lessons	In school normal timetable with wellbeing check in	Online - Live lessons	Online - Live lessons
9	In school normal timetable with wellbeing check in	Online - Live lessons	Online - Live lessons	In school normal timetable with wellbeing check in	Online - Live lessons
10	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable
11	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable
12	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable
13	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable	In school normal timetable

School 2

An 11-19 secondary school with approximately 900 learners. Approximately 16% of learners are eligible for free school meals. The school building and site is small, in particular leisure and social spaces. The sixth form are housed in a separate building.

- Year 11 provision will be delivered in one specific departmental area unless the number of pupils who are scheduled to be in a specific class exceeds the classroom capacity in which case one of the larger areas (e.g. Sports Hall or Canteen) will be used.
- The focus will be on the following.
 - Catching up on work covered during lockdown and discuss issues/problems from the pupils and teachers' perspective.
 - Ensuring skills coverage throughout the subjects
 - Preparing for any assessment work to be undertaken after Easter
 - Mentors will work with individuals/small groups on aspirations and to offer extra support.
 - A Careers Wales officer will offer support when available.
 - SLT will work with individuals as identified to focus on future aspirations and options (those not timetabled to be with the children of critical workers or vulnerable children).
 - The ALN team will work one-to-one (with sneeze screens) with those pupils requiring support
 - The pastoral team will continue to provide support for pupil well-being through telephone calls/Google Meet or in the Pastoral Hub for those pupils on-site as and when required.
- The school has separate accommodation for sixth form so Year 13 provision can be offered as per normal timetable.
- Well-being check-in days will follow a rota system for all years. These will access full day sessions due to the reliance on school transport for the majority of our pupils.

Week	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
1	Yr 11	Yr 11	Yr 11	Yr 11	Yr 11
	Yr 13	Yr 13	Yr 13	Yr 13	Yr 12
		Yr 10*	Yr 9	Yr 8	Yr 7
2	Yr 11	Yr 11	Yr 11	Yr 11	Yr 11
	Yr 12	Yr 13	Yr 13	Yr 13	Yr 13
		Yr 10	Yr 9	Yr 8	Yr 7

* Catch up during week 1 will be aimed at most vulnerable pupils/those most anxious about returning to school. Pupils will be identified by the Pastoral Team who will work with these pupils.

Week 2 activities for key stage 3 pupils will be arranged as follows on a carousel:

Lesson 1	General discussion, games, discussion about the current situation, news, share plans for the new term.
Lesson 2	
Lesson 3	Physical Education lessons such as Yoga
Lesson 4	Welshness session
Lesson 5	Google Classroom work – ensure that the term’s work is completed and discuss any issues which can be passed on to the subject teacher.
Lesson 6	

School 3

A 11-19 secondary school with around 800 learners, 13% of which are eligible for Free School Meals.

Key principles to guide decisions for design and delivery of provision:

- Health and Safety
 - Strengthened protocols and procedures
 - Operational guidance
 - Risk Assessments
- Continuity of Learning
 - Remote learning – synchronous/asynchronous
 - Face to Face
 - Readiness and Replenishment
 - Transition year groups (year 13 and year 11)
- Wellbeing
- Examinations/assessments

Week 1 - 15 March

Year 11 – face to face

- All year 11 pupils to attend receiving a personalised bespoke timetable reflecting their strengths and areas to develop. Activities and learning to include: wellbeing, vocational/practical delivery, careers, bridging units, skills solutions, opportunity to reconnect, subject surgery - groups to attend (numbers to be agreed subject to space and school geography).

Year 13 – face to face

- Generally low numbers (less than 15 pupils/class – students to follow normal timetable).
- During non-teaching/study time classrooms allotted to groups or return home.

Year 12 – face to face where capacity permits

- Generally low numbers remote learning to continue to ensure the integrity of continuity of learning - students to follow normal timetable.

Year 10 – face to face where capacity permits

- Remote learning to continue to ensure the integrity of the continuity of learning - pupils to follow normal timetable for the majority broken with and elections project.

Years 7, 8 and 9 – remote learning/face to face where capacity permits

- Remote learning to continue to ensure the integrity of the continuity of learning - pupils to lead and deliver a Minecraft/WRU Stadium Project – following principles set in the Welsh Baccalaureate to complement with enterprise and global sustainability challenges reflecting the four core purposes.

Week 2 - 22 March

Monitor, evaluate and review previous week

- Increase face to face numbers where capacity allows.

School 4

An 11-16 secondary school with approximately 600 learners on roll – approximately 100 of these in Year 11. 20% of learners are eligible for free school meals, and 30% of learners access school transport.

- From October 2020, all lessons were delivered synchronously with pupils and staff following their school timetable. As the result of feedback from parents, staff and pupils, we amended this to include a percentage of time for learners to work independently.
- The timetable has recently been amended to allow learners longer breaks and reduce screen time whilst working online.

Week 1 - 15 March

- Year 11 return and follow their school timetable.
- The school day will revert to the timetable that pupils followed prior to lockdown (shorter breaks and lunch), with days starting with registration (small classes) to aid wellbeing.
- Work with departments to ensure skills coverage is appropriate across subjects, and build assessment framework.
- PE lessons (for this fortnight) to be used as self-supported, supervised study sessions for learners to catch up should they wish.
- Provision will be made for learners who were struggling to be supported by SLT and with support provided via Accelerated Learner Programme funding.
- Assessment made of class sizes. Larger spaces will be utilized to accommodate bigger classes and other year group zones would also be used during this phased return.
- Seating plans created prior to lockdown will be reinstated.

Week 2 - 22 March

- Year 10 pupils entered for English Literature to return for 2 sessions for face to face teaching.

All pupils to bring packed lunch to school and utilise the eating zones as previously laid out.

- One wellbeing session will be offered to all learners on a rota basis over the two week period from 15 March. This will be organised in form classes being allocated specific days and will be facilitated by form tutors supported by SLT and Progress Leaders. The sessions will be offered to all pupils, with those unable to physically attend school due to transport, accessing the session via a live link.
- Learners will sit in allocated seats and larger spaces will be utilised to ensure social distancing where classroom spaces are small.

School 5

An 11-16 school serving an urban area of significant deprivation. Approximately 900 pupils, of which 35% are in receipt of free school meals.

Key aims:

- To enhance provision for year 11 pupils, and augment continuity of learning.
- To better facilitate progression to FE/employment for pupils, through face-to-face delivery of essential skills/content needed for the next stage of pupils' learning and development - aspects which are more difficult to teach/learn remotely.
- To offer a positive/confident phased return for pupils and staff of Year 11 after a prolonged period away from school.

How we plan to achieve this:

- Split most core classes into two groups and set lesson time against one another. For example, half a year 11 group will have an English lesson whilst the others have Maths and so on.
- On Option days use larger spaces for larger groups. Others would be in the classrooms.
- Configure the timetable to provide a longer session in the afternoon; ensure practical subjects access longer afternoon sessions, including physical wellbeing for all.
- Use larger rooms for whole group lessons where possible – using the sports hall, gym, canteen and combining partitioned classrooms into one.
- Pupil Support Teams to start each day promoting positive emotional & mental health, through wellbeing sessions.
- We will ensure that all pupils have the timetable well in advance so that they re-familiarise themselves with one-way systems, sanitising procedures, toilets and recreational areas. The headteacher and pupil support teams will lead an 'open meeting' with year 11 via Teams prior to their return.
- All pupils to bring packed lunch to avoid larger groups in the canteen.
- Classrooms carefully arranged with seating plans for pupils, as previous arrangements; pupils 'spaced' out more across the classroom, given the reduced numbers.

Week 1 - 15 March

- Year 11 pupils arrive at 08.30 for wellbeing session
- Lesson 1 begins at 08.45
- Structure of day remains largely as for the autumn term, apart from slightly shorter lunch break given that there are no canteen queuing requirements, and a slightly longer lesson 5 to accommodate practical/physical wellbeing sessions

Group	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Year 11	Options day	Core subjects	Core subjects	Core subjects	Options day

Week 2 - 22 March

- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – year 11 pupils arrive at 09.00, to reduce risk of mixing with the other year group in school that day
- Separate entrances to be used by the different year groups Tuesday-Thursday
- Years 7, 8 and 9 will arrive at 08.30 on the day that they are in school

Group	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Year 7		Wellbeing catch-up 08.30-14.55			
Year 8			Wellbeing catch-up 08.30-14.55		
Year 9				Wellbeing catch-up 08.30-14.55	
Year 10					English Literature and Wellbeing
Year 11	Options day	Core subjects	Core subjects	Core subjects	Catch-up for individuals/ small groups

School 6

An 11-18 secondary school of approximately 1,100 learners. It services a large catchment area, with around 13% of pupils in receipt of free school meals.

Rationale:

- When pupils return the focus will be to prepare pupils for the next step in their academic journey.
- Teachers will therefore focus on delivering aspects of current courses which have been difficult/impossible to teach through distance learning.
- The school has opted for the following model: 6 days for Year 11 - because there are more curriculum areas to cover - and 4 days for Year 13.

Practical arrangements:

- Face to face learning is essential, otherwise the value of pupils being 'on-site' is lost.
- In accordance with updated operational guidance numbers in teaching groups will be reduced.
- Where staffing allows larger groups can be split with two subject specialists taking half the group each. Where this isn't possible groups will be taught in alternative locations e.g. hall, sports hall.
- Smaller teaching groups (especially Year 13) will be taught as usual, with pupils 'spread out' in class to ensure social distance is maintained.
- Teachers reaching 28 weeks maternity/in receipt of shielding letters will deliver lessons live from home – school to arrange that staff are supervising pupils on site.
- The timetable change should not have a significant impact on the learning of other year groups. Teachers might not be available to deliver 'live lessons' for some groups, however prior planning will allow for adjustments to be made.
- Teachers will not be expected to work 'on-site' unless they're delivering live lessons to Year 11 and Year 13.
- Due to the school's reliance on school transport 'catch up' sessions for younger pupils will have to involve full day visits.

Week 1 – 15 March

Group	Mon 15 March	Tues 16 March	Weds 17 March	Thurs 18 March	Fri 19 March
Year 11	Welsh English Mathematics Science	Option subjects x 3 Welsh Bacc/PE	Continue with set tasks at home	Continue with set tasks at home	Welsh English Mathematics Science
Year 13			4 sessions – one for each option block Non-contact time to be devoted to Welsh Bacc		Continue with set tasks at home

Week 2 – 22 March

Group	Mon 22 March	Tues 23 March	Weds 24 March	Thurs 25 March	Fri 26 March
Year 7				Welsh English Maths Science Wellbeing	
Year 8					Welsh English Maths Science Wellbeing
Year 9			Taster day: Providing taster lessons of one hour per subject across Year 10/11 option subjects		
Year 10		7 sessions, Welsh English Maths Science			

		3 Option Subjects			
Year 11	Option subjects x 3 Welsh Bacc/PE				
Year 12		4 sessions – one for each option block			
Year 13			Welsh Bacc drop in		