

## Frequently Asked Questions on Home-Based -Learning for Parents

### **1. Why are schools going into the blended learning model now?**

When schools reopened post-March holidays, SPED schools have worked very hard to implement a very strict regime of precautionary measures to safeguard the wellbeing of our students and staff. In light of the recent spike in imported COVID-19 cases, it is timely to implement the blended learning model to support the national safe distancing measures. SPED schools are implementing this in a progressive manner to allow teachers, students and parents to be better prepared should the situation call for more days of HBL later on.

It is also an opportunity for all of us, as we cope with this crisis, to do blended learning in a more effective and engaging manner. However, even as we go into HBL, our desire is to still keep our schools open most days of the week. We want to support our students' learning and also look after their holistic development, and do our best especially for those who do not have conducive home support.

We are monitoring the developments closely, and are prepared to step up the number of HBL days if necessary.

### **2. What is HBL?**

Home-Based Learning (HBL) is a plan to help students learn from home. It can comprise different modes of learning, such as e-learning, reading textbooks, completing workbooks and worksheets, physical exercise and self-management through daily living skills. There is a range, depending on the needs of the students.

SPED students will be required to do about 3 to 4 hours of HBL, with no more than 2 hours of computer-based work per day.

### **3. How long will the blended learning model last?**

The blended learning model will be implemented from April 2020 onwards.

We are monitoring the developments closely, and are prepared to step up the number of HBL days if necessary.

### **4. How do I support my child when they are at home doing HBL?**

Here are some helpful tips:

- Work out a daily schedule/routine with your child - guide your child in setting goals and scheduling tasks, as part of developing the valuable life skills of time management and self-discipline which your child can acquire when doing Home-Based Learning (HBL).

- Have an agreement with your child on managing screen time. When it comes to using technology to support HBL, we will assign a maximum of 2 hours of online learning every day. You can work out an agreement with your child to take short breaks in between online learning, and reduce their recreational screen time, e.g. time spent on video games and social media. They can replace recreational screen time with healthy offline activities, such as helping out with household chores, reading books or playing games with family members. For further tips and guides on reinforcing your child's cyber wellness, please refer to:

<https://ictconnection.moe.edu.sg/cyber-wellness/for-parents>.

**7. Can my child go out on HBL days, or must he/she stay at home all the time?**

Our teachers will remind the students that they should be learning at home. We urge parents and care-givers to be our partners and reinforce this message, so that the students remain safe and minimise any exposure to the coronavirus. Specifically:

- Remain in their place of residence as much as possible
- Minimise visitors to the place of residence
- Minimise time spent in public places and contact with others
- Monitor their health and temperature
- Follow their HBL plan closely to continue with their learning

**8. I am a working parent who has to stay home to look after my school-going child on Home-Based Learning days. Am I required to take leave to do so?**

The Government has urged employers to support their employees by providing flexible work arrangements, such as working from home, during these exceptional circumstances. If your work is office-based, do explore this possibility first, or discuss with your employer to work out a mutually acceptable arrangement. MOM will also continue to urge all employers to be more understanding of employees in such situations, especially those who are parents.