

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Full Home-Based Learning (HBL)

(Updated 05 April 2020)

1. 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. There is a range, depending on the nature of the subject and needs of the students.

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

2. Why is full Home-Based Learning (HBL) only starting on 08 April? Why not move to full HBL immediately?

We trialled HBL for one day on the week of 30 March. Shifting from one day a week of HBL to full HBL for a period of close to 4 weeks is a major move. MOE is giving two more days in school for teachers, students and parents to make various preparations, such as arranging for alternative care, preparing further instructions on accessing HBL materials, providing students with internet enabled devices and working out the support needed from schools.

3. Will MOE extend full Home-Based Learning?

We are constantly monitoring the situation and reviewing our measures. We will take into consideration the prevailing healthcare situation, medical advice and the national posture, before assessing if these measures need to be prolonged.

4. What should I do if I do not have alternative care arrangements for my child?

Please contact the school to explore options if you are unable to make alternative care arrangements due to your work in essential services, or if you do not have the necessary digital resources, e.g. computer and internet access, to support your child's HBL.

5. How do I support my child when they are at home doing HBL?

Here are some helpful tips:

- Working out a daily schedule/routine with your child and guiding your child in setting goals and scheduling tasks.
- Making a few simple rules together. Praise your child for practicing these rules, and celebrate success in accomplishing the learning tasks by giving a reward like spending time on a favourite activity.

- Establishing an agreement with your child on managing screen time. HBL will be for 3 to 4 hours, with a maximum of 2 hours of online learning every day. For further tips and guides on reinforcing your child's cyber wellness, please refer to: <https://ictconnection.moe.edu.sg/cyber-wellness/for-parents>.
- Being positive yourself, and encouraging your child to maintain an optimistic and positive outlook while accepting the changes and emotions that he/she has had to face as part of going through HBL.

6. My family has more than one school going child and I do not have enough devices at home for their HBL? What should I do?

HBL involves both online and offline approaches to learning. Therefore, not all HBL will require the use of devices and your children can take turns to use the device.

If the HBL plan issued by the school requires the use of a computer/device and your child is not equipped with one, please approach the school for assistance. All schools are equipped with sufficient devices to loan out to students for online HBL. We can also assist if your child does not have access to the internet at home.

7. Can my child still come back to school premises during this time?

We should take reference from the latest national efforts to enhance safe distancing measures and further limit social interactions. Students are therefore strongly advised to stay at home and avoid going out unnecessarily, unless they have been identified for the limited service arrangements or to use the school computers for HBL, which allow them to be in school during the HBL days. School will be in touch with these students on the necessary arrangements.

8. 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

9. I am a working parent who is unable to telecommute to support my child during the full Home-Based Learning (HBL) period. How is MOE supporting working parents like me who require alternative care arrangements for my child?

We understand the concerns of parents who will be affected by the suspension of in-person classes, and the suspension of services in student care centres, which will also impact childcare arrangements. With mandatory telecommuting for most workplaces from 7 April 2020, we hope many parents would be able to care for and keep their children at home during this period.

Having said that, if you are working in essential services such as healthcare, please approach the school for assistance if you are unable to secure alternative care arrangements.

10. If we have to go through a prolonged period of Home-Based Learning (HBL), what will happen to exams?

For school-based examinations, we will review and adjust our plans to ensure continuity of teaching, learning and assessment through HBL.

For more information, please refer to the

- Press Release titled “Schools and Institutes of Higher Learning to Shift to Full Home-Based Learning; Preschools and Student Care Centres to Suspend General Services” (<https://www.moe.gov.sg/news/press-releases/schools-and-institutes-of-higher-learning-to-shift-to-full-home-based-learning-preschools-and-student-care-centres-to-suspend-general-services>)
- MOE FAQ Website (<https://www.moe.gov.sg/faqs-covid-19-infection>).