

Access to Technology for Students - Protocol

Outline

At Fearnhill we regularly monitor students' access to the internet and/or a compatible device on which to engage with remote learning. This protocol sets out the steps the school will take to ensure all students have equal access to technology and can engage successfully with their education. This document should be read alongside the School's Remote Learning Policy, the Remote Learning Protocols – Expectations for Staff, the Remote Learning Strategy for Vulnerable Learners and the Remote Learning Attendance and Engagement Guide, all updated in January 2021.

Identification

An audit for students is carried out regularly by form tutors, most recently during the later part of the autumn term of 2020. This identifies which students have access to the internet and/or a compatible device at home.

On-site Offer

Building upon the lessons of previous lockdowns, the first option of support for students without full digital access is an invitation to come into school. Contact is made outlining the invitation and requesting a response.

Adapting to Suit Needs

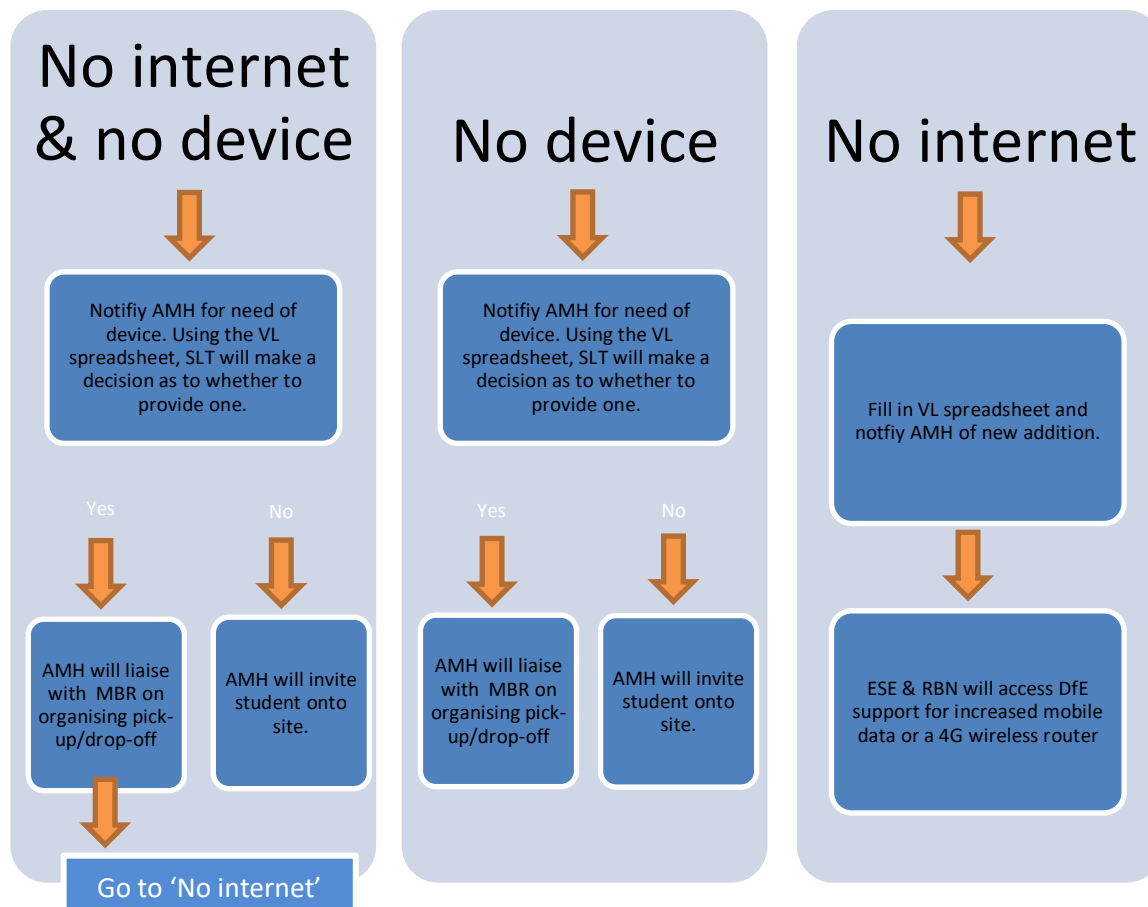
Students may not be able to come onto the school site for various reasons (isolating, shielding, etc.) and therefore decline the invitation. At this point, further contact is made to establish the exact situation at home and whether the student(s) do or do not have access to the internet and a compatible device. The flowchart below is then followed.

Device Loan

Parents will be contacted by AMH and a contract will need to be signed in order to loan a digital device. The contract outlines the conditions on which the device is being given to the student, including its safe return. If the contract is not signed then the device is not to be handed out.

Ongoing Support and Monitoring

Linking to the 'Remote Learning Attendance and Engagement Guide' monitoring students' engagement is a key priority. Students will be closely monitored to ensure they are using the provision that has been organised for them. If a student is failing to show engagement after 3 days of being granted access to the provision, a member of SLT will ring home to establish why. If engagement does not significantly improve any devices will be recalled and the student will be required to come on to the site. Partnership with parents and carers is key in the success of this approach.



Students may be invited into school on a part-time basis to show engagement before they are offered a device.

Link for DfE page on 'Get Help With Technology'

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>