



# Remote / Distance Learning guidance for Parents in North Wales Schools

Good learning happens when your child is clear about what they are learning, have time to complete the work and have opportunities to discuss and improve their work.

Different teaching approaches suit different types of learners and subjects. A mix of ways to provide learning can be seen in your school and across our schools with a blend of live teaching, recorded material and pre-prepared activities. Every Individual teacher is well/best placed to decide what is the most practical and effective way for them to provide remote learning during this difficult time for everyone.



## What is Remote or Distance Education?



Remote or distance learning is all learning that takes place outside the classroom, with the teacher not present in the same location as the learners. This could be either live teaching or material prepared by the teacher and accessed by the pupil at a later date. What is important is that your child is clear about what they are learning, have time to complete the work and have opportunities to discuss and improve their work.

## What should I expect from my child's school?

Welsh Government clearly set out expectations of schools in which they state what learning should look like for learners during these extraordinary and challenging circumstances. Further guidelines were published regarding learners in exam years (Yr10, 11, 12 and 13). These guidelines can be found here:

[Guidance on learning in schools and settings: coronavirus | GOV.WALES](#)

[Expectations of remote learning for pupils in exam years - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

How your child's learning will look in practice will need to be flexible to accommodate the context and varying needs of different learners and parents within your school. Whilst taking account of pressures on parents, in particular those who are trying to balance supporting home learning with working from home themselves and those balancing the education of more than one child, we also need to be mindful of the pressures on school staff. They also face a balancing act of maintaining face-to-face contact with pupils on site whilst planning, preparing and delivering online learning for the whole age and ability range, providing feedback on learning, and often providing IT support.



The curriculum in Wales differs from other regions of the UK, therefore expectations linked to learning are also different and specifically tailored to improving pupils' progress within our national context. In order for pupils to make progress and succeed

in their education in Wales, teachers provide a range of activities which support and maximise learning, these activities are often different from activities and provision which are seen in other parts of the UK.

## How should remote learning look in my child's school?

Remote education can take place in a variety of ways. Most schools have a digital platform so that they can provide online education where that is the most appropriate method. However, sometimes, it may be more effective to deliver remote education through other methods including worksheets or a textbook. Online methods can include both live lessons and material prepared by the teacher and accessed by the pupil at a later date. What is important is that your child is clear about what they are learning, have time to complete the work and have opportunities to discuss and improve their work.



There are some people who think that remote learning should only consist of back to back live streaming of lessons. This isn't necessarily the case, especially with younger learners. A sensible approach to live lessons can have advantages, which include:

- Teachers being able to give clear messages to learners and ensure their understanding of a task/ concept before they proceed with the work.
- Learners are able to get live feedback regarding their work enabling them to know what they have done well and where they need to improve.
- Improving the engagement of pupils who lack the self-discipline to work independently.
- Learners can see each other and their teacher and can interact and collaborate.
- Helps parents to understand tasks and concepts, learning intentions etc. in order to be able to support their child's learning

However, there are some potential downsides to consider before using live remote streaming:

- Negative impact of too much 'screen time' on pupils including developing a bad posture, and other physical problems due to staying hunched in front of a screen.
- Technical difficulties can be frustrating e.g. access to equipment, internet access/ connectivity issues etc.
- Learners have limited IT equipment or have to share equipment with family members.
- Evidence suggests that concentration online is shorter than the length of a typical lesson in school.



Just to remind you, different teaching approaches suit different types of learners and subjects. A mix of ways to provide learning can be seen in your school and across our schools with a blend of live teaching, recorded material and pre-prepared activities. Every Individual teacher is well/best placed to decide what is the most practical and effective way for them to provide remote learning during this difficult time for everyone.



If you have any queries please get in touch and we would be happy to discuss this further.