

TOP TEN TIPS

for parents

The government has set out its expectations for schools to provide remote education during this current lockdown so that pupils other than children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils can continue learning at home. These are challenging times for everyone – teachers, parents, carers and pupils. We've set out some helpful advice for parents on what to expect with remote learning and how you can support your child at home.

1. MANAGING EXPECTATION

Schools will have different approaches to remote learning but all schools will be doing their best to provide a range of teaching methods while also still teaching those pupils going into school. Not all remote learning will be face to face, time with their teachers and schools will provide a blended approach that will evolve and develop over time.

2. FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH SCHOOL POLICIES

Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.

3. IMPLEMENT SAFETY CONTROLS AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS ON APPS AND SOFTWARE

Dependant on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.

4. MAINTAIN FEEDBACK WITH SCHOOL AND TEACHERS

Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent and only use official channels to communicate whether that be through the school's online portal or other secure messaging site.

5. ENSURE LEARNING DEVICE IS IN A PUBLIC SPACE

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and ensure it is an appropriate environment for learning.

6. ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer. Take an active interest, helping and supporting when needed.

7. ESTABLISH A DAILY SCHEDULE AND ROUTINES

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting, that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom, might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.

8. ENCOURAGE SCREEN BREAKS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks, however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online to ensure there is the opportunity for fresh air and physical exercise.

9. NOT ALL REMOTE LEARNING IS ONLINE

Don't forget that sharing stories, reading, practising number bonds and multiplication facts, handwriting, creative activity and talking to your child about their work will go a long way in continuing their learning outside the classroom.

10. MONITOR WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.