



Derrymount School

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Finding Pathways to Learning & Living

Derrymount School Remote Learning Plan

This document outlines our plans for blended and remote learning should pupils need to access this due to self-isolating or in the event of a partial or full closure of classes or the school.

In order to ensure that learning is continued whether as a result of self-isolation or a lockdown, Derrymount has developed a plan which offers some remote learning experiences. All Derrymount pupils have an assigned laptop which they will be able to use at home, but we acknowledge that some families may not have access to the internet and may therefore require hard copies of work.

We also know that some of our pupils may prefer paper-based work and so as well as offering online teaching we have packs of work available.

Blended learning is an approach that combines school-based teaching with online learning and we will use both approaches to ensure that the curriculum is delivered seamlessly.

Our plan is in line with the expectations and principles outlined in the DFE guidance: Full Opening of Schools.

Our blended learning will:

- Enhance teaching and learning and ensure continuity of the curriculum.
- Be coherent and coordinated.
- Make the best use of school-based resources and technology
- Be accessible to all and address individual learning styles.
- Improve outcomes for all.

The Remote Curriculum: What will our pupils be taught?

The work set for pupils will follow the same scheme of work as their tutor group so that pupils will continue to access the relevant curriculum. Pupils taking exam courses will continue to follow these.

Work will be appropriate and in line with the current curriculum and may be supplemented by a range of resources such as BBC bitesize and online websites such as Prodigy and Sumdog.

Adaptations will be made where it is not possible to do practical experiments, topics and themes by using videos or other appropriate resources.

Accessing remote learning

All pupils at Derrymount have a laptop allocated to them for their use.

Derrymount will use Teams to provide online teaching and the opportunity for pupils to communicate with their teachers.

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School will post or hand deliver paper-based work packs for families who are unable to download or print resources or to those families whose pupils prefer paper based work.

Staff, parents, and carers may communicate using the Class Dojo. We will also place information on the school website. Staff will phone families on a weekly basis.

Pupils and their parents / carers will be given login details and passwords to ensure they can access the programs being used.

As always, they can phone or email the school if there are any concerns.

Remote teaching and study time each day.

We expect that remote education (which includes online teaching, independent work and activities) will take pupils broadly the following number of hours each day:

| Primary age pupils | Secondary age pupils |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Between 2-4 hours each day. | Between 4 – 5 hours each day. |

We recognise that some pupils may find this amount of time a challenge so we have built in some activities that can be done away from the laptop and we will work with families to support this.

How will our pupils be taught remotely?

Our approach will be a blend of paper-based resources and work packs, online teaching through Teams and working on a learning platform – Google Classroom. It will include:

- Daily live teaching sessions using Teams.
- Work and activities via Google Classroom
- Online websites such as Sumdog, Prodigy, Ninja Maths.
- Social interaction for each class via a Teams Chat.
- Practical activities to do which may include daily living skills for some pupils.

Engagement and feedback: What are the expectations for pupil engagement and support by parents and carers?

In the event of self-isolation or closures due to Covid 19, engagement in home learning is compulsory as is the expectation that Derrymount School makes that provision available and accessible to all. If a child or young person is ill they will not be expected to engage in remote learning.

How will we check whether children are engaging with their work and how will we inform parents / carers if there are concerns?

Daily attendance at live lessons will be monitored and staff will review previous work to check who has completed it. There will be a requirement to submit some pieces of work to the teacher for marking / assessment. Where there are concerns about engagement or progress these will be addressed appropriately with parents/ carers through phone calls.

If a pupil is not engaging with home learning, they or their parents / carers will receive a call from their tutor to discuss any barriers to learning and offer support. This can be followed up by the Senior Management Team if appropriate. We recognise that some of our pupils compartmentalise their learning and struggle to accept doing schoolwork at home. In these circumstances we will work with the family to explore ways to engage their child / young person. Communication regarding work is encouraged through using the class dojo. Class teams will contact families once a week to check that everyone is well and offer support if needed. If there is no response from home, a home visit will be carried out by an appropriate member of staff.

How will we assess pupils' work and progress?

Work on Google Classroom will be marked and feedback provided. Practical activities may be photographed and shared with tutors. Teachers will review the work completed and ensure that the following day's lessons address any misconceptions. Pupils will receive at least weekly feedback, and this may include:

- Written feedback in response to a completed piece of work.
- Individual verbal feedback via Teams or phone call.
- Whole class verbal feedback via Teams.
- Feedback via class dojo.
- Feedback via Google Classroom learning platform.

Additional support for pupils with specific needs

We recognise that some of our pupils may not be able to access remote learning without support from adults at home. We will work closely with parents / carers to adapt remote education to meet individual needs.

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate, but the majority of their peer group remains in school, how remote education is provided may differ slightly from the approach to whole groups. This is due to the challenges of teaching pupils both at home and in school.

Safeguarding

Staff will abide by the highest professional standards when working remotely or directly with pupils. Safeguarding the best interests of children will always be our highest priority. Derrymount's Designated Safeguarding Leads will continue to ensure that appropriate agencies continue to be involved with families. Cyber safety must continue to be a priority - particularly as the level of filtering of appropriate sites in use at school is not available in pupils' homes. Derrymount has a laptop use agreement and this includes a link to a useful guide to filtering using the controls provided by various internet providers.
(<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>)