

COVID-19 – Coronavirus

# Distance Learning Guidance for Parents/Carers



Committee for  
Education, Sport & Culture

**#GuernseyTogether**

**On 23rd January 2021, the Bailiwick entered lockdown as a result of cases of community transmission of COVID-19. During this period, schools and the College of FE will provide a programme of Distance Learning so that children can continue to learn and remain connected with their school community.**

Distance Learning does not seek to replicate an entirely normal day of teaching and learning. However, it is designed to provide some structure and opportunities for purposeful learning. While it is important that your child completes the Distance Learning work set by their teacher, we naturally recognise that most parents are not teachers themselves and so we do not expect you to step into this role! In fact, the learning that your child's setting will provide has been specifically designed to help them work as independently as possible.

It is really important to us that you feel supported during this difficult time. We fully appreciate that these are challenging times for parents and so, if you have any questions about this guidance or how Distance Learning will work for your child, please contact your child's school or the College and staff will be happy to answer questions.



### **What is expected of parents during the Distance Learning period?**

Parents are not expected to sit alongside their children while they are working and teach them - of course, younger children and those with additional learning needs may need more parental support than older students. You can, however, play an important role by helping your child plan their time and by encouraging, motivating and praising their efforts.

Depending on the age of your child, you may need to help them communicate with their teacher about the work they have completed or, in the case of older children, make sure they are following the school's instructions about how to keep in touch. Your child's school will let you know how their teacher will share material and how this should be submitted once complete.



## How will education be delivered?

It is unrealistic to expect Distance Learning to replicate exactly the timetable and type of activities that are provided when schools are operating under normal circumstances. However, your child's teachers are working hard to make sure that appropriate and accessible learning is available to all. All children and young people continue to have the right to learning and we are committed to delivering it as well as we can. There is likely to be greater emphasis on re-affirming what students have already learnt, with independent learning pitched at the right level for your child, literacy, numeracy and activities which build core knowledge being the focus. Your child's school will contact you directly to explain how they will operate during this time. While much learning will be delivered using remote technology, your child's school may also choose to provide some written materials.



## Will a daily timetable operate as normal?

Schools will be doing all that they can to provide a structured learning experience for your child but this might not reflect their usual timetable in every way. For children in primary education and for learners with additional needs, we recognise that most parents/carers are not teachers and may also be working from home or have other things they have to juggle during part of the school day. For this reason and in primary schools especially, children will be able to do the work for that day at a time that best fits in with their household. Schools may provide suggested timetables to help support children in organising their learning but they will all understand that each family has different needs and may choose to structure their child's study in their own way.



## What kind of work will teachers be setting?

Learners are entitled to daily direct teaching which the teacher may provide through pre-recording an explanation, by signposting to an online lesson or, where this can be done on an equitable basis that enables all children in a class to participate on an equal footing, via live lessons. This direct teaching will not be able to mimic the experience of being in school and will typically be shorter than a school based lesson. After the teacher input, the pupil will have a task to do which they will need to share with their teacher. Your child's school will give you clear instructions about how to do this.

At other times of the day, your child will be given independent learning tasks that revise, practice or extend previous learning and are not dependent on direct teacher input. For example, daily reading is important for children of all ages and revision of maths facts such as times tables and division facts or number bonds is important for children in Primary and Key Stage 3.



## How much work will my child be expected to do?

This will depend on how old your child is. Please see the table below for an outline of the expectations for different year-groups and the sorts of activities your child's teacher will set:

### Reception Year 1

- Short phonics teacher input linked to daily practice of reading, spelling and handwriting
- Short maths teacher input linked to daily practice
- Physical activity guidance
- Signposting to at least three online or pre-recorded video lessons a week linked to other areas of the curriculum
- Guidance to parents on play
- Guidance on stories to read to pupils
- Optional creative activities or projects

**Year 2**  
**Year 3**  
**Year 4**

- Phonics and/or spelling teacher input linked to daily practice of reading, spelling and handwriting
- Maths teacher input linked to daily practice
- Daily maths practice of number bonds and times tables
- Short writing activities at least three times per week
- Physical activity guidance
- Signposting to online or short pre-recorded video lessons at least three times week linked to other areas of the curriculum with associated short tasks
- Daily independent reading practice for 20 minutes minimum
- Guidance on stories to read to pupils
- Optional creative activities or projects

**Year 5**  
**Year 6**

- Grammar and spelling teacher input linked to daily practice
- Maths teacher input linked to daily practice
- Daily maths practice of number bonds, times tables and division facts
- Signposting to online or pre-recorded video lessons at least three times each week linked to other areas of the curriculum with associated short tasks
- Short writing activities at least three times per week plus one longer task with feedback at least every two weeks
- Physical activity guidance
- Daily independent reading practice for 30 minutes minimum
- Guidance on stories to read to pupils
- Optional creative activities or projects

**Year 7**  
**Year 8**  
**Year 9**

**Weekly:**

- English: 2 ½ - 3 hours including one longer task with feedback at least every two weeks
- Maths: 2 ½ - 3 hours with feedback at least every two weeks:
- Science: 1½ - 2 hours including one longer task with feedback at least every two weeks
- Each other subject: 1 hour a week per subject with feedback at least every two weeks
- Work in all subjects should include direct teaching provided via online, pre-recorded or live video lessons with associated tasks for most lessons
- Optional creative activities, projects and wider subject reading

**Daily :**

- Physical activity: 30 mins - **1 hour per day**

**Year 10**  
**Year 11**

**Weekly:**

- English: 3 hours including one longer task with feedback at least every two weeks:
- Maths: 3 hours including with feedback at least every two weeks:
- Science 3 hours including one longer task with feedback at least every two weeks:
- Option subjects: Two hours a week per subject with feedback at least every two weeks
- Work in all subjects should include direct teaching provided via online, pre-recorded or live video lessons with associated tasks for most lessons
- Optional creative activities, projects and wider subject reading

**Daily:**

- Physical activity: 30 mins - **1 hour per day**

## Year 12 Year 13

### Weekly:

- A Levels: 5-6 hours per subject, with feedback at least once per week per subject
- IB: 3-4 hours per subject, with feedback at least once per week per subject
- Optional creative activities and projects

### Daily:

- Physical activity 30 mins - 1 hour per day
- Independent reading around subjects

Your child's school will be working hard to deliver this new form of education as quickly as they can. All children will receive guidance about their school's plan to support them with Distance Learning activities from Wednesday 27th January 2021 at the latest.



### **My child attends the College of Further Education. Will they be expected to do the same kind of work as the schools?**

Young people at the College study a wide variety of courses and are often very familiar with blended models of learning which apply specifically to the courses that they are following. However, the principles continue to apply for students at the College. If you expect to be participating in some form of assessment for your qualification don't worry, the arrangements are not yet confirmed but your qualification is not at risk and we will work with the awarding organisations and ensure any guidance is followed. Your tutor will keep you informed once we know the details.

### **Full time students**

- ✓ Use internal communication portal GCFEConnect to keep up to date with activities across the College and touch base with tutors
- ✓ Check emails and/or Google classroom daily
- ✓ Attend online lecturers/ discussion groups or complete online activities or assessments at the times suggested by your tutor

- ✓ Check in with tutor at the designated times
- ✓ Take a break and get some exercise
- ✓ Contact Learning support team if you have worries

## Apprentices

- ✓ To check emails from tutors and use GCFEConnect and information on the College website
- ✓ Attend online lecturers/ discussion groups or complete online activities or assessment submissions at the times suggested by your tutor
- ✓ Check in with tutor at the designated times
- ✓ Take a break and get some exercise
- ✓ Contact Learning support team if you have worries

## 14-16 Students

- ✓ To check emails from tutors and use GCFEConnect and information on the College website
- ✓ Attend online lecturers/ discussion groups or complete online activities or assessment submissions at the times suggested by your tutor
- ✓ Check in with tutor at the designated times

## Mature Students

- ✓ To check emails from tutors and information on the College website
- ✓ Attend online lecturers/ discussion groups or complete online activities or assessment submissions at the times suggested by your tutor
- ✓ Check in with tutor at the designated times





## **What about children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), including those in SEND schools?**

Schools will carefully pitch the work given to children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities so that it best fits their individual needs. Many tasks will focus upon extending and consolidating learning in a flexible way. If your child has SEND and you are concerned about how they are managing, please make contact with your child's teacher or SENCO/Head of Year as they will be happy to help.



## **What about the children of essential workers attending school?**

Whenever these children attend, they will be following the same Distance Learning programme as their peers. School-based staff will support them in the same way as parents at home are supporting their own children and young people.



## **Will teachers be delivering live video lessons?**

Learners are entitled to daily direct teaching. Live video lessons provide one way of doing this. However, the use of live video lessons assumes that all children in a class can be online at the same time and this will not be possible for many families. The use of live lessons is therefore only desirable in circumstances where the teacher is sure that all children will be able to access at that time or the live lesson is also recorded so that those who need to access at a different time of the day are able to do so in an equitable manner.



### **My child's school is asking us to use resources produced by other organisations or to watch BBC programmes as part of their Distance Learning. Is this okay?**

The use of high quality online or broadcast learning resources is strongly encouraged and schools will use these alongside other materials that they have produced themselves. There is nothing wrong with schools drawing from some of the excellent materials produced by other organisations.



### **How does this all fit in with the need to focus on children's mental health and well-being at this difficult time?**

Structure, routine and the sustaining of relationships are important elements in maintaining mental health and well-being. For many children, the sudden withdrawal of school may be challenging and unnerving. Therefore, it is important that we are able to provide all children with structured learning, albeit in a way that is more flexible and adaptable to different families' circumstances. Your child's school has lots of guidance about how best to support the well-being of children and young people and will be able to share support materials with you, just as they did in the previous period of lockdown.



### **Will work be compulsory for children?**

It is important that formal education is disrupted as little as possible. As such it is expected that students will complete the work their teachers set for them. However there will be flexibility in how that work is completed and your child's teacher will be available to remotely support them and you during this time.



## **What will happen if children do not complete the work?**

Where a school is aware that a child is not engaging with the work set, the first concern will always be for the well-being of the child and their family members. School staff may get in touch with you and your child to encourage them to engage with the activities set or to explore with parents any barriers to participating in learning at this time.



## **What if my child is ill?**

In the same way that children who are ill do not have to attend school under normal circumstances, children do not have to engage with Distance Learning when they are ill. Parents and carers should let schools know that their child is unwell in the way that they usually would.



## **How will teachers let me and my child know how they are doing?**

Your child's school will tell you which online methods they will be using to provide feedback. Keeping learners motivated will be very important, so schools will continue to recognise and praise the efforts of their children regularly. Schools will use online learning tools to enable children and young people to share the work that they have done and for teachers to respond with encouragement. Children need to understand that, even though they may not be in school all day as usual, their teachers will know if they are completing their work as required.



### **What about children who do not have access to WiFi or an internet enabled device?**

Schools will arrange to make a device (e.g. Chromebook, iPad) available if a child does not have access to an appropriate one at home. Please discuss this with your child's school. Where devices are loaned, parents/carers must agree to the loan, and sign a loan/acceptable use agreement. Support from Telecoms providers is also being offered (under certain criteria) to enable Wi-Fi access at home where it is not available. Please speak to your child's Headteacher about this.



### **What happens if I am not happy with the work my child is being set or how this is being communicated?**

Please always contact your child's school if you have any problems or concerns. The school will want to hear from you and work with you to address these. Please remember that this is a different way of working for your child's school and its teachers too. Your child's school wants to do the very best it can for all young people and hearing about what is going well and what could be improved will help them to do that.

Thank you for your support in helping us deliver a good Distance Learning experience to the children and young people of Guernsey and Alderney.

## **Thank you**

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in helping us deliver a good Distance Learning experience to students. These are challenging times for everyone and the role you play in supporting schools, teachers and students cannot be understated.