EDINBURGH LEARNS

Teaching, Learning & GIRFEC during school closure

Guidance for Parents & Carers

Contents

31st March 2020

Introduction

The Corona virus (Covid-19) pandemic has resulted in changes to how we deliver all services, including education. All school staff want to continue to offer the best service possible and many schools in Edinburgh are delivering learning by digital means. Not all schools do this yet, so each school has set up its own systems to share learning: digital, traditional or a mix of both.

The most important thing we are trying to do is to minimise the spread of the virus; to look after our families, ourselves and our communities. We know that you will now be supporting your children with new worries, or concerns arising from the 'lockdown.' This will involve regularly check-ins about how they are feeling about the changes that have occurred e.g. being away from school, friends and being out of their normal routine.

We realise we won't be able to provide exactly the same learning at home as in school right away, but plans are continuing to develop and we will update guidance at school and authority level as frequently as we can.

The children of Key Workers are attending Hub Schools/Centres for learning/childcare in the city, to allow their parents to work. School age children of key workers should bring their school work or learning device with them. Additional activities will also be provided.

During holiday times, a limited number of Hub Schools will be open. An alternative Daily Plan will be followed, where pupils will not be expected to engage in Academic activities.

Teaching and Learning at Home

Primary Schools & Special Schools (Primary)
What Can You Expect?

- Planned learning activities for your child related to Literacy, Numeracy, and Topics they are learning about. There may also be a range of tasks related to other curricular areas e.g. Art, Music, Science & RME.
- It is important that there is a balance of learn & play, free choice and quiet/recreation time.
- Learning will be shared digitally for learners who have digital access.
- If you don't have digital access, your child will be provided with the resources they need to support their learning e.g. jotters, textbooks, pencils, workbooks etc wherever possible. This includes support materials for pupils with additional needs.
- Home Learning grids, provided by paper (wherever possible) or electronically.
- For learners within Early Years (Nursery and Primary 1) Play-based activities will also be planned. There may also be opportunities for your child to be provided with resources to support their play. These activities may also be suitable for pupils in other stages.
- Class teachers will plan learning, for your child, up to the Easter break (Friday 3rd April, 2020), in the short term.
- Learning will be reviewed, and updated.
- Websites, Facebook and Twitter pages will be updated
- There is no expectation that your child should follow a planned programme of learning during holiday periods.

How Can You Support Your Child's Learning?

- Have a look through any learning materials your child brings home with them so you are aware of what they are being asked to do.
- You might find it helpful to have a look at the Edinburgh Learns Suggested Daily Plan to get an idea of the types of activities that your child might be engaging in. Schools will also plan other activities relevant for their pupils and context.
- If you have digital access, check your school website regularly for updates about learning.
- Support your child in accessing Office 365, if needed, where learning and support materials may be stored.
- Talk with your child about their learning- What they are being asked to do? How are they going to do it? What will make their learning a success? Talk with them about what they have done well and what they would like to improve/learn more about.
- Monitor the amount of time your child spends on-line. Try to encourage them to vary this with other learning, including physical activity, and play.
- Over holiday times, please support your child in engaging with a range of activities which do not focus on formal academic learning.

Secondary schools & Special Schools (Secondary)

BGE (S1-S3)

- Class teachers will plan learning opportunities, for their class, which can be carried out at home. This may take the form of a piece of work or activity which would cover several usual "lessons".
- Learning may be shared with learners digitally e.g. through school website pages or Office 365 digital platforms. Where this is not available to students, resources will be sent home
- Activities will be updated, as deemed appropriate, by the class teacher.
- You should refer to school websites regularly for updates regarding pupils' learning.
- Consult Facebook and Twitter pages

Senior Phase

- You should refer to school websites regularly for updates regarding students' learning.
- Consult Facebook and Twitter pages.
- Students should be pointed to suitable materials which will help prepare them for their next level of study.
- Learning may be shared with students digitally e.g. through school website pages or Office 365 digital platforms. Where this is not available to students, resources will be sent home
- Activities will be updated, as deemed appropriate, by the class teacher.
- SQA information will be shared as soon as it is available
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Access Guidelines for Digital Learning

- Office 365 is the online space we use for staff and learners in City of Edinburgh schools. Many students already access this space. The school website will let you know if learning materials should be accessed in this way.
- Office 365 can be accessed through a browser, and also through the various Microsoft apps like Teams, OneNote, Word etc. Students requiring access can log in through a browser using the link on the Digital Learning Team website and navigating to the 'Learners' menu https://digitallearningteam.org/ and clicking on 'Office 365 Login'.
- Student login information is their Scottish Candidate Number (a nine-digit number provided by their school) and password, both provided by the school.

- Access through apps on mobile devices requires an additional login step at the beginning of the process which asks to sign in using 'your work, school, or Microsoft account'. Learners should enter their ScottishCandidateNumber@ea.edin.sch.uk – e.g. 123456789@ea.edin.sch.uk – then they will be asked to enter their Scottish Candidate Number and password in the usual way.
- Any issues regarding usernames and passwords, or questions on how to use Office 365, should be directed to the school admin email address.
- As we actively encourage learners to engage with digital learning tools we would like to highlight the need to stay safe online. The Digital Learning Team website has a section for Parents/Carers. Here you will find a range of resources to support you in addressing online safety with your child. Learners can access a range of interactive resources within the Learners section of the website.

What to do if you have a question or concern?

- We appreciate that the current arrangements cannot provide you, and your child, with daily contact or feedback from school staff. If you have any issue **related to your child's learning** that you would like help with, please communicate this through your school admin email address. This should will be visible on the school website and will be formatted as 'admin@NAMEOFSCHOOL.edin.sch.uk'. Please check individual school websites for the exact address.
- If you are not able to access email, please call
  - 07395283439 (Jackie Reid – Primary Quality Improvement Manager)
  - 07952436125 (Darren McKinnon – Secondary Quality Improvement Manager)
  - 07542226551 (Lorna Sweeney – Service Manager Schools and Lifelong Learning)

Skills Development Scotland

School leavers can still arrange 1:1 guidance with SDS by calling 0131 718 2040 and leaving contact details on the answer machine. An adviser will then follow-up to arrange a telephone appointment.

Early Learning and Childcare – What to Expect When Your Child Is Not Able to Attend Nursery

- Your nursery will provide guidance and information to you as to how to best support your child's learning through play at home.
- Guidance on developing appropriate experiences and activities will be shared with you by your nursery.
- Children at this stage in their development learn best through real-life experiences, not formal teaching.
- Your setting will continue to update and build on previous experiences over time. Individual nurseries will share this information in a way that best suits their local community.
- Nurseries will share books and resources that you may need to support your child. Many activities will require everyday items that you may already have around the house, which we call 'Loose Parts' e.g. bottle tops, cardboard tubes and boxes.
- Research tells us that the best way to support our children's learning at this stage is time and attention from an adult, lots of spoken language and reading.

- If your nursery uses eLearning journals please share your children's activities and experiences through photos and comments.
- If your nursery uses paper journals they will communicate how best to gather your child's learning journey at home.

Parent and Carer Information on the Support for Edinburgh's Most Vulnerable during Covid-19 School Closures

Who meets criteria for support?

Please note as per government guidance, our priority is to keep children safe and reduce risk of the spread of the Covid-19 Virus. For this reason almost all learning and support will be carried out remotely. There will be a very few number of our most vulnerable children who may need face to face support such as:

- A child or young person who is currently on Child Protection Register or who is considered at high risk of harm or neglect.
- Looked After Children (at home or away from home), Kinship Care
- Young Carers
- Children with complex additional support needs

How will we support the most vulnerable?

- Schools will provide learning experiences for all children and young people. Most learners will be supported through their school's approach to home learning.
- Technology to support remote learning may be provided for our most vulnerable children and young people.
- Bilingual Support Assistants (BSA) can support communication with families. Please ask your school if you need this.
- Interpretation and Translation Service can also support communication with bilingual learners' families. Please ask you school if you need this.
- A few children may be able to access some of our hub schools if we can risk assess their needs safe to do this.

Pupils Receiving Supports from Wider Partners

- The majority of support from wider partners such as social work, ASL service and third sector will be carried out remotely for children.
- A very few children will have bespoke face to face support if this is assessed essential to keep them safe.

Pupils with complex additional support needs

- The majority of children and young people with complex additional support needs will be supported remotely by school staff.
- 2 hubs will run in 2 of our special schools, Braidburn and St Crispin's. This is to provide support for a few pupils who are our most vulnerable children with complex additional support needs.
- Easter Holiday Provision is being explored for our most vulnerable pupils. This will be a limited resource.

Parents may choose not to receive the support offered.

Child/ Young Person's Planning Meetings

These meetings should be continuing to support the children and young people as required but completed by phone or video conferencing. Actions may take longer than usual to complete. If you have concerns, please speak to your child's school.