

## About the curriculum and blended learning

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**This section focusses on arrangements for learning and teaching in City of Edinburgh schools from 12 August 2020.**

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**What will the focus be for learning and teaching during pupils time in school?  
Will it be on core areas like numeracy and literacy?**

There will be a focus on teaching and feedback, with all areas of the curriculum included as far as possible. Guidance for the blended model of learning and teaching is being prepared at present, which will also include information for parents/carers. Further details will be made available as soon as possible.

**Will key workers' children attending the Hubs be encouraged to complete their schoolwork?**

It is intended that, after the summer holidays, key workers' children will receive childcare. This will support families as schools will be able to plan learning and childcare together. There may be a need to offer childcare from an alternative building rather than a child's school.

**Will all children be treated equally in terms of their access to learning? What assessment has the Council done and what does this work say the impact of this new style of teaching will be on outcomes for all pupils?**

Patterns of attendance will be dependent on the capacity of each school to make sure children can be accommodated in the building as safely as possible. There may be differences in these patterns across schools, but all schools will be making sure that all children receive the support required to access learning at home and at school. We will do all we can to make sure pupils are treated equally across the city.

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**What is blended learning?**

Blended learning is a mix of in-school learning and learning away from school. Schools are getting their blended learning plans ready for August. This can include digital learning and homework as set and assessed by the teacher in relation to in school learning.

There are lots of factors which influence how it works in practice. These are:

- the school values – these will continue to be at the heart of learning and teaching
- the design of the curriculum – schools will be updating what and how they teach
- the ages and stages of learners – blended learning in secondary could be different than in primary and special schools
- the numbers of learners with digital devices and how the devices are used in school and at home
- what the school community wants – for example more or less digital learning
- the skills, knowledge and resources – devices, access to the outdoors, training, workshops for parents and so on.

Parents and carers will be asked about their views as schools develop blended learning plans. Parent and carers will also be asked if everything is working well as

the term goes on and should always get in touch with the school to talk about any problems.

Digital Learning is not essential for Blended Learning to work, but it helps. Since Lockdown every school in the City of Edinburgh has been making use of it. Most older primary and secondary pupils use Microsoft Teams to share learning. Younger pupils mostly use digital Learning Journals and workbooks. All schools used websites to keep in touch about learning.

Our vision is that all learners will have a digital device that will help them learn at home or in school. Almost half of our learners have a digital device provided by their school, and more are being bought every day. We are working with the Scottish Government to provide as much as we can – especially to families living in poverty.

Digital learning has to be safe, secure and fair. To make it work we must have teacher training, a good quality IT network and digital support. A lot of work has gone on in the background so far and there is more to be done. Next session we expect even more pupils to have live or pre-recorded lessons as part of their digital learning

Some digital learning happens by posting lessons online, pupils uploading work and then teachers marking it. Other types include using pre-recorded video such as YouTube. Schools that use digital learning a lot might have live lessons. Often these are audio lessons, where pupils can see the teacher but not each other. A few schools have used live two-way video for lessons and check-ins and more will start to do this next session. Every Special School now has live two-way video.

Digital learning is evolving in Edinburgh just as it is everywhere else. If your child has not yet experienced the full benefits of digital learning, it will happen. All schools are working on this right now and for next session. Two-way video on Teams has now been enabled for every special school in Edinburgh to support blended learning approaches for children with complex additional support needs.

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### **With a split between time in school and home learning, what support will there be with, for example, video learning or IT kit?**

In terms of support with for example

- video learning (eg using Zoom/Teams/Skype/live streaming/recording of lessons)
- improvement to technology infrastructure in schools (including WiFi)
- provision of technology for families without laptops/tablets
- support if families don't have access to a printer

schools are being supported with approaches to blended learning and they will communicate with parents and carers about these approaches.

### **Will schools be supported practically and financially to provide as many opportunities for outdoor learning as possible?**

Schools will be encouraged and supported to use outdoor learning as much as possible.

**Will PE classes still take place? If not, will there be opportunities for pupils to be active and move during the school day?**

PE will be in place.

**How will children be given the opportunity from August to learn at their own pace?**

Teachers will work with their classes to adapt the curriculum to their pupils' needs.

**Is there an approximate amount of work (ie hours) expected to be set for each pupil for each year group?**

The amount of work will be tailored by age and stage for pupils.

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**Is there an opportunity to create and make available a more detailed forward plan (say a week in advance) of work for children for their home working to help parents/carers to plan better?**

Individual schools will plan and communicate their arrangements to parents/carers.

**While schools have been closed, my child's teacher has provided work online and they have been in touch regularly. How can teachers do this from August if they're teaching in school as well? How will learning at home be supported?**

We are currently reviewing the availability of teaching staff together with schools' senior management teams and making plans to make sure that all pupils can learn effectively and make good progress, whether in school or at home.

Any learning at home will be arranged and supported by your child's teachers. You won't be expected to 'home school' your child in the formal sense and teachers will be available to help and support your child with their learning at home. As well as the Learning Hub mentioned above, you can find lots of tips and advice, and the opportunity to sign up for a weekly newsletter, available on the [Scotland Learns](#) website, part of Education Scotland.

**Has the SQA given any indication of whether the exams will proceed next year and has there been any discussion about the possibility of pupils repeating the year if restricted attendance is in place for a prolonged period?**

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) is assessing the situation with regard to qualifications and examinations in 2020/21. There have been no discussions to date regarding pupils repeating a year based on prolonged restricted attendance.

**Will parents' evenings still take place?**

Your child's teachers will continue to update you on their progress, but it's likely that face to face meetings such as parents' evenings will happen in different ways. Your child's school will contact you to let you know what these new arrangements are.

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