

Carmarthenshire's Distance Learning Plan

Information for parents and carers
to support children's health,
wellbeing and learning at home



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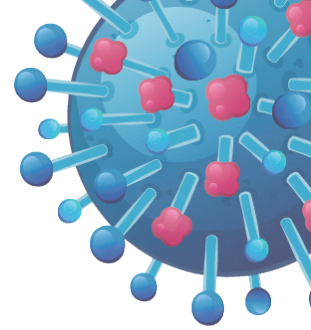
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The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has had a big effect on our daily lives and we have had to make a number of changes to make sure our families stay safe.



With schools closed, it is important we look after our children's health and wellbeing and we help them to learn in a different way.

Your school and teachers are providing you with help to support your children's learning outside of school and they will continue to provide the right level of learning and support that you need.

This may be through online activities, but there are also a number of other ways in which your children can learn.

It is also important to keep physically active; it is not just good for keeping fit, but keeps our minds healthy too.

Please be reassured we are not expecting you to home school your children during this period - you cannot take on the teacher role or deliver the school day in your own home:

- You are there to parent – to provide your children with a safe and healthy environment in which they can work on what their teachers are sending them
- You can support your children to learn just by being there and by giving them your encouragement, you do not need to act as home tutors
- You are not expected to cover the normal school day, give support and guidance to your children as and when it is appropriate during the day.
- Be guided by what the school is setting for your child. Teachers will be ensuring that tasks set are age and ability appropriate, and within reasonable time limits
- Let your children do things on their own as well – encourage them to be independent, particularly as they get older, such as in upper primary and secondary school
- You know your children best and know the time and support they need
- Talk to your child about the work they've been doing and take an interest in what they've been learning
- Learning is not all online - there are lots of things that your children can do in the house and garden that will help them learn - from books, drawing and other creative activities, to cooking and gardening, television and radio
- Not every day needs to be the same – make distance learning work for you
- Remember that your children are learning all the time, and being in school is just part of that.
- All we ask is that you to trust your instincts and support your children as best you can

Carmarthenshire's Distance Learning Plan

We have been working closely with Welsh Government, ESTYN, our regional partners, headteachers and school staff to develop this new way of learning.

We have put together a Distance Learning Plan which sets out the way forward for learning in Carmarthenshire during the coronavirus outbreak. We want to mitigate the impact of school closures on our children and young people as far as possible so that they can quickly catch up when our schools reopen.

The plan includes:

Curriculum / teaching and learning

An audit of what's already been achieved in schools up to the end of the Easter break is being carried out, as well as a review of work that has been pre-planned by schools leading up to the Spring bank holiday (Whitsun).

This is to make sure that it is consistent with the curriculum requirements of the national Continuity of Learning plan.

Staffing

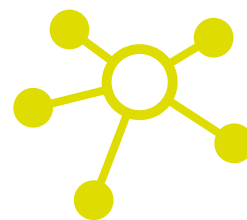
We need to make sure teachers and teaching assistants are committed to Carmarthenshire's Distance Learning Plan by preparing appropriate learning materials, monitoring work and feeding back to pupils as well as continually reviewing what is in place.



This will be carried out mainly through a programme of online distance learning and will help to develop digital teaching skills using a variety of tools.

Connectivity

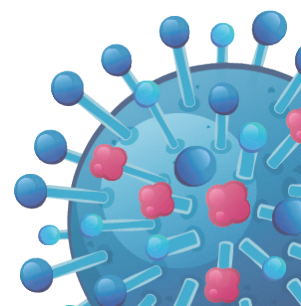
It is important that we make sure all pupils can continue learning by having access to a PC / laptop / tablet, as well as the relevant software and connectivity.



An audit of learners who are having difficulty with access to learning will be carried out and plans put in place to mitigate any issues, for example, by improve digital access where appropriate or by providing an alternative such as paper copies.

Sharing and collaborating

It is important that schools work together to create suitable learning resources, as well as share relevant resources and good practice with each other.



Wellbeing

The wellbeing of pupils and staff is a key priority. Schools will check in regularly with learners and their families, especially pupils with Additional Learning Needs, vulnerable children and harder to reach groups.

Communications

Effective communication is important, and schools / teachers will be keeping in regular contact with families during this time.

Leadership and Management

Effective leadership and management are vital to delivering this plan, as well as in terms of making sure schools continue to function during this period and for when the time comes for schools to re-open.

Some of these tasks have been completed, others are in progress or ongoing.



Further advice / support

If you have any issues or concerns in relation to your children's continued learning, your school and teachers remain your first point of contact. Your head teacher will be able to give us feedback and if there is any additional support needed, we can look into it.

We would urge parents to please stay in touch with their schools, let them know how you are getting on and send some photos too.

We also want to thank you for your support and co-operation at this time, we know it isn't easy especially when you are working or have to care for others too.

Distance learning support

Distance learning support on [Hwb](#) includes a range of tool and resources to help you with learning activities as well as links to advice on health and wellbeing.

It is suitable for use from nursery age onwards. Your child will have been given a login and shown how to use it in school. If you have young children, you will have received login details and information on how to access [Hwb](#) from home.

A number of [support videos](#) have also been developed to help parents using [Hwb](#), including getting started with logging in and how to use the range of distance learning tools available.

Welsh Government - Stay Safe, Stay Learning

Welsh Government has published information on its Stay Safe, Stay Learning: Continuity of Learning plan on its [website](#). This includes further guidance and advice for parents during the coronavirus pandemic.

