

St. Ninian's High School



Online Learning – Frequently Asked Questions January 2021



Learning and Teaching

What is Google Classroom/Microsoft Teams and how do pupils submit work?

Google Classroom/Microsoft teams are free web-based platforms that allows teachers and pupils to share information and resources via a class page which can be accessed via a PC, laptop, tablet, mobile phone or games console. Pupils will be issued with a unique code or will be added to a class in order to join their virtual class. On the class page teachers will provide links to teaching inputs and tasks that pupils should undertake while working from home.

Depending on the nature of the task, pupils may be asked to submit work in a document template that has been provided by the teacher or via uploading a photo of their work. Pupils should click on the 'Turn In' button to submit work to their teacher.

Can online learning be completed using a phone?

Yes, online learning can be completed using a phone. There are a number of free apps we would recommend to download to support online learning:

Google Classroom: Google Classroom app, Google Docs and Google Meet. All of the classwork will be posted on Google Classroom but the other apps make it easier to access the documents and live sessions.

Microsoft Teams: Microsoft Teams app, OneDrive, One Note and Microsoft Office Lens. As before, all of the classwork will be posted on Microsoft Teams, but the other apps make it easier to access the documents and live sessions.

What will online learning look like?

Online learning will consist of 3 parts:

Teaching Input:

Pupils will be provided with a teaching input from their class teacher which can be accessed from home. This should be undertaken, or made available to pupils, during their normal class time. Teaching inputs may take the form of:

- Pre-recorded Inputs (e.g. Screen Recordings)
- Audio Recordings
- Online Resources
- And more recently Google/Microsoft team Meets

Home Learning Task:

Following the teaching input, pupils will undertake a task/activity that has been planned and issued by the class teacher to consolidate the learning that has taken place during the teaching input. Details of these tasks will be posted on the various platforms by the class teacher.

Feedback:

Once pupils have completed their online learning task(s), teachers will provide relevant feedback in an appropriate format to help move learning forward.

How will my child receive feedback?

As teachers, we value feedback and understand its importance when moving learning forward. You will most likely see different teachers providing feedback in different ways. Examples may include written, audio, live learning conversations or whole class tasks where common misconceptions have been highlighted. If your child is not sure of their feedback or needs further support, we would advise them to contact their class teacher directly through the learning platform or glow email for further assistance.

Do you have any advice on how I can promote and support pupils at home? Will the teachers be available to assist if my child is having difficulties with a specific subject area?

We would advise that pupils are ready to learn for the start of the usual school day. Teachers will post work in line with your child's timetable therefore, you can keep track of what work has been posted that day. Pupils can get in contact with their class teacher by commenting on an assignment to ask for support. Additionally, more departments are becoming more confident in offering a drop-in session for pupils to ensure they have ample opportunities to get support if required.

Who should I contact for questions about my child's learning?

In the first instance, we would encourage your child to use the various platforms through the post page to ask their class teacher for support, particularly if there are questions related to the task set by the class teacher. If you need further support your child's Pastoral Support teacher is the first point of contact for any queries related to their learning at school. Each Pastoral Support teacher has set up a Microsoft Teams class and your child can either contact them on here or by sending an email to their Glow email address

Will after school supported study be available?

In addition to the work issued by class teachers, we have included at the end of this booklet a number of additional general websites which includes the BBC lockdown learning and access to e-Sgoil who are offering live webinar support sessions for a number of curricular areas during the evenings. A number of curriculum subjects have put more specific web addresses that apply to their subject on their own departmental websites.

If your child is in the Senior Phase, then they can access Scholar. Scholar offers additional online learning resources and quizzes with instant feedback for a number of subjects. This resource requires a login details which can be provided by email the school office.

What support is available for pupils with Additional Support Needs?

Your child's class teacher is responsible for planning the learning activities for their classes and will continue to ensure that the different needs of pupils in the class are met. Your child's Pastoral Support teacher will also be aware of additional needs and will be monitoring your child's progress closely to ensure that all supports are in place. Our Support for Learning Principal Teacher is also on hand to offer further support.

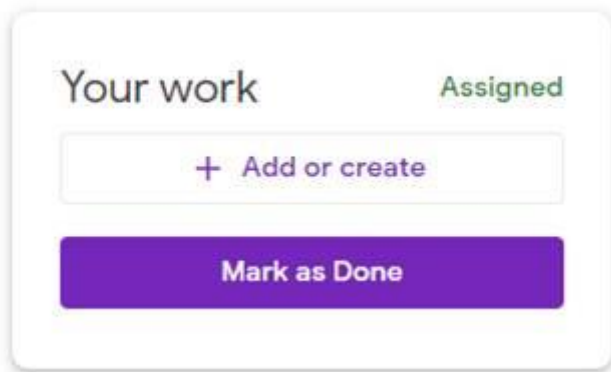
How will I know if my child is engaging with online learning?

As of the week beginning the 11th January, pupils have been issued with a least one piece of work for each subject that requires to be submitted. If a pupils fails to submit this assignment parents/carers will receive an email identify this subject as a concern as their child has not engaged. Please also be assured that Pastoral Support will be in touch with you if your child is not engaging with online learning to offer further support.

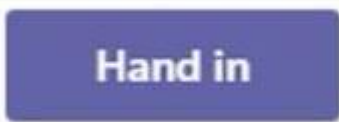
We received an email regarding non-engagement, but my child thinks they submitted their work- what has happened?

Depending on the online learning platform, it is very important to 'confirm' that work has been uploaded. Please encourage your child to do the following:

- When submitting work via Google Classrooms, please remember to click on the purple button on the top right of the screen that says 'Mark as Done' once you have uploaded your work. If you don't do this, Assignments appear as 'Missing' to the teacher.



- When submitting work via Microsoft Teams, please remember to click on the purple button on the top right of the screen that says 'Hand in' once you have uploaded your work. If you don't do this, Assignments appear as 'Viewed' or 'Not turned in' to the teacher.



What if my child does not engage with online learning?

Firstly, reassure your child that although online learning feels very different there is a lot that is still the same: the same teachers, the same subjects, the same people in their 'virtual' class. Pupils are following their own timetable which should help pupils to engage with online learning more effectively. If there are continuing concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pastoral Support teacher.

SQA

How will pupils be assessed for and awarded SQA qualifications in 2020-21?

As the Deputy First Minister has outlined in the Scottish Parliament there will be no external assessment of National 5, Higher or Advanced Higher courses in 2020-21 and the SQA exam diet has been cancelled. Courses will now be assessed using an alternative certification approach based on evidence obtained across the 2020-21 session through a robust series of assessment opportunities.

The form this evidence will take will vary across subjects and can include prelims, in class assessments, performative elements and portfolio-style pieces of work. Evidence will be moderated within and across schools to ensure a consistent level of expectation at the appropriate standard.

Pupils will be kept informed of the assessment requirements of subjects by their class teachers and upon our return to school we will implement an assessment strategy that will ensure the pressures of assessment are manageable for pupils.

Wellbeing

What is in place to support my child's wellbeing?

We are aware of how challenging the current circumstances are for our pupils and place their wellbeing at the forefront of all we do. Your child's Pastoral Support teacher will remain as the primary support for your child. They will stay in touch with your child, through their pastoral classes Microsoft team and also, by phone. The Pastoral Support teachers are continuing to deliver PSHE via their class

Team as well as signposting various supports. Our twitter page (@HealthSnhs) focuses on supporting wellbeing and is updated frequently with top tips about supporting mental health. We also hope that the increasing live check-ins pupils can have on a daily basis with many of their teachers will help engage them in their learning. We know that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to ensuring wellbeing and will vary our approach depending on individual circumstances. If you are concerned about your child in any way, please contact their Pupil Support teacher.

What can I do to support my child if they are feeling anxious about online learning?

Firstly, reassure them that it is perfectly understandable to feel anxious – they are being asked to learn in a way that feels very different to them. That said, they should remember that a lot is still the same: the same teachers, the same subjects, the same people in their ‘virtual’ class. Encourage them to follow their timetable as this will help them manage their time and make sure they know to ask for help if they are finding anything difficult. If they are not comfortable doing this, then please contact Pastoral Support who will liaise with teachers. It is also important that their day is about more than just school – we would encourage them to take the time to relax, keep in touch with friends and exercise.

When will Parents’ Meetings take place and will there be an updated school calendar?

As a result of the current school closures, we have had to postpone a number of events which were due to take place throughout the month of January. We are currently finalising the revised details of when these will take place (including Parents’ Meetings) and will publish the relevant information as and when we are able to.

Useful Websites

General

- [BBC Bitesize](#)
- [BBC Teach](#)
- [SCHOLAR](#)
- [Twinkl Home Learning Hub](#)
- [BrainPOP](#)
- [Kahoot](#)
- [Gridclub](#)
- [Scholastic](#)
- [Scotland's Enterprising Schools](#)

Health & Wellbeing

- [GoNoodle](#)
- [Health for Kids](#)
- [Food Fact of Life](#)
- [BBC Food Recipes](#)
- [Food Techniques](#)
- [Shout Support in a Crisis](#)
- [Breathing Space](#)
- [Childline](#)
- [PE Home Learning Challenges](#)