LEARNING FROM HOME: ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

We are aware that the experience of learning from home is new for everyone, students, teachers and our parents and carers. We have put together the following information to assist you as we work in a new and different way.

Key considerations:

Parent responsibilities during remote learning
Provide support for your children by:
- establishing routines and expectations
- defining a space for your child to work in
- monitoring communications from teachers
- beginning and ending each day with a check-in
- taking an active role in helping your children process their learning
- encouraging physical activity and/or exercise at home
- checking in with your child regularly to help them manage stress
- monitoring how much time your child is spending online
- keeping your children social, but set rules around their social media interactions.

Student responsibilities during remote learning
Students should:
- establish and/or follow a daily routine for learning
- identify a safe, comfortable, quiet space in their home where they can work effectively and successfully
- regularly monitor digital platforms and communication such as google classroom, Moodle and school email to check for messages, learning activities and feedback from teachers
- complete tasks with integrity and academic honesty, doing their best work
- do their best to meet timelines, commitments, and due dates
- communicate proactively with their teachers if they cannot meet deadlines or require additional support
- collaborate and support their classmates in their learning
- comply with the Department's Student use of digital devices and online services policy
- seek out and communicate with school staff as different needs arise.

Establishing routines and expectations
Students should follow their school timetable. This will include regular breaks for activity, eating and drinking. In the activity breaks, it is important that students get up and move around.

Setting up a learning environment
Try to create a quiet and comfortable learning space. Your child may have a regular place for doing homework under normal circumstances, but this space may not be suitable for working in for an extended period of time.

A space/location for extended learning should be a public/family space, not in a bedroom. It should be a place that can be quiet at times and have a strong wireless internet signal, if possible. Ideally, it should be a space where you or another adult can monitor your child's learning.

Communicating

Communicating with your child

We encourage you to start and finish each day with a simple check-in by asking questions about the learning activities that your child is going to or has engaged in during the day. Asking questions about their learning can allow your child to process the instructions they have received from their teachers, the learning they have engaged in and help them organise themselves and set learning priorities.

Communicating with the school

You and your child can communicate with the school via email or phone during school hours if you need further information about the learning for your child.

Communicating with teachers

Teachers may be communicating with your child during this period using email or communicating within a learning management system like Google Classroom. Teachers may allocate set times where students can chat with them online.   It is important for you and your child to remember that teachers will be communicating with more than 100 other families and that your communications should be meaningful and short. You may also need to remind your child to be patient when waiting for support or feedback.

Using technology

Purchasing new software or devices

It is strongly advised that parents do not purchase software from third-party providers. Students already have a wide range of software available and these have been specifically chosen to provide your child with the support they need. See our school website for details about how to access software

Accessing digital learning platforms

To support your child in using online and digital resources as part of their remote learning they will need to know their Department of Education log on details. If your child needs assistance, they should contact the school.

Managing Screen Time

While the platform for providing students with learning activities is online, this does not mean that students should be spending all day on their screens. It is important that students have a break from their screens throughout the day, and also find time to be active and get their body moving.

Managing behaviour

Even though your child is at home they still need to comply with their schools' behaviour management policy. You can refer to the following:
- Student Discipline in Government Schools Policy
- Behaviour code for students
- Bullying of Students - Prevention and Response Policy
- Student use of digital devices and online services

Collaboration, group work and peer feedback during remote learning will require students to communicate online and work together in digital spaces. The expectations of your child and their behaviour will be the same as in a face to face lesson.

Digital citizenship

We recommend that you take the time to explore issues of digital citizenship and online safety and then discuss these with your child.   It is important that during this period of remote learning that we maintain safe and responsible use of information and communication technologies. This includes appropriate use of digital platforms, privacy and information protection, respectful communication and how to deal with online issues.