



Reach South & Virtual Learning

Our values:

As a trust we have a number of core values that define who we are, these are our values, our DNA:

- Inclusivity.
- Promoting social mobility.
- Serving our local communities.
- Believing in the potential of our young people
- Preparing tomorrow's adults to contribute to social, economic, environmental and cultural sustainable development.

Our curriculum values:

- Delivering high standards of education for all pupils.
- Providing a broad, rich and experiential curriculum to develop rounded young people.
- Providing pathways that are relevant to the needs of our young people and the wider community.
- Basing our approach on verifiable research evidence where it exists.
- Teaching young people how to be effective learners.

Our vision for virtual learning:

At a time of global crisis, all nations are beginning to realise the potential of learning outside of formal schooling. The unexpected closure of our schools is causing us to reconsider how learning can happen, with teachers and children working together to unleash a new way of working. It is possible that this period of school closure may provide us with the opportunity and motivation to radically re-shape learning. In Reach South we will commit ourselves to delivering virtual learning by:

- Focusing on the needs of every child, enabling them to learn in a safe and secure learning environment.
- Ensuring that we maintain good contact with the child and their parents and carers.
- Ensuring that the methods of engagement and learning offer is high quality.
- Ensuring that the virtual learning experience is broad and balanced.
- Focusing on the skills of learning how to learn.
- Relentlessly focusing on research based evidence of what works.



Notes for Parents:

1. **It is not possible to recreate school at home** – at the beginning of the crisis, this needed to be stated clearly; nearly a month in, many parents know this for certain too! Schools are complex systems, with many interlocking parts. Therefore, our approach has been carefully considering what could be meaningfully done at home, and what we needed to prioritise to ensure that young people and their parents could do it.
2. **Our approach is focused on supporting students so that routines are sustainable, healthy and achievable** – schools are tightly orchestrated places. This is not the case at home and helping young people to build and sustain healthy routines is an important part of the current challenge.
3. **We are not asking parents to become teachers** – in homes up and down the country the value of a good teacher is being reinforced daily; making visible to many the hard work and learning that goes into developing excellent classroom practitioners. At Reach South, we invest a huge amount of thought and time in supporting teachers to learn from each other to enhance their practice. We knew it would be unfair and impracticable to ask parents to simply fill in for their children's teachers. Instead, we aim to provide a framework which will empower parents and young people to work effectively at home without direct teacher intervention.
4. **We've built our framework on the best available resources that are already in existence.** All our teachers have access to a full and continually updated library of resources that are available to support learning remotely. Because there are so many resources available of varying qualities, teachers will guide which resources students should use to support their learning.
5. **It is vital that home learning balances teacher workload vs their own added responsibilities at home during this time** – teaching is a demanding profession - even in less remarkable times than these. We are acutely conscious of the demands already placed on teachers to deliver the Educare for the children of key workers, safeguard vulnerable young people, and contribute to planning remote learning. All whilst fulfilling their own caring responsibilities at home.
6. **Most curriculum resources improve as they are iterated; we share what we learn with our colleagues** – our Virtual School Team of advisers support and help their colleagues with sourcing the best online resources and training on using remote platforms effectively. They provide a weekly update for all our schools on new developments, as well as a planned scheme of training to upskill teachers in virtual learning platforms.