

Principles to underpin learning for all Portsmouth pupils from June 2020

We recognise that these are unprecedented times and that as lockdown has continued, headteachers and their staff have worked incredibly hard in partnership with the local authority to increase the number of vulnerable pupils attending school and to make sure that education and social care together 'have an eye' on all vulnerable pupils. At the same time, while not an explicit Government requirement initially, schools have been determined to provide some form of home learning offer for the majority and to make sure that those pupils currently attending school get access to similar learning as well as care.

There is no doubt that in an ideal world, school is the best place for pupils to be learning. However, while some pupils may be back in school to some extent from 1 June, others are very likely not to return before September at the earliest. Government guidance now is clear that schools should be considering how best to support and educate all their pupils during this next phase. We know that headteachers and MATs are carefully planning the logistics of a return for some pupils in order that those in year groups that are not invited back yet are not disadvantaged by all the energy being spent on the pupils in school. To build on that, we have agreed the following principles to formalise schools' thinking on home learning with colleagues on the *Curriculum, digital and home learning work stream* that forms part of the Return to School strategy. We would like all schools in the city to adopt these to ensure all pupils in Portsmouth get the best possible educational deal possible at this time and to mitigate, as far as is possible, loss of learning by the time pupils return to school.

Schools will ensure that their home learning offer (whether fulltime or blended with some time in school):

- as far as is possible when delivered remotely, complements their planned curriculum so as to continue to consolidate and build pupils' learning over time;
- is ambitious and clear in setting their expectations about how much learning pupils will engage in;
- has systems in place to support parents, including in setting routines for learning and making sure work is completed and returned where appropriate, offering advice and signposting to other resources to complement set activities;
- has systems in place to check how well pupils are learning and address misconceptions;
- takes account of what extra is needed for those pupils who will be moving to a new key stage, school or college in September – YR, Y2, Y6, Y11;
- takes account of what extra can be provided for disadvantaged pupils, those with SEND and those who speak English as an additional language, remotely during this period.
- addresses social and wellbeing needs remotely during this period to ease the return to school as much as possible.

We know that schools are in different places, for a range of reasons, in using online teaching and learning. At the same time, we cannot afford to lose the opportunity to review how we do things that Covid-19 has forced on us. We are ambitious to exploit the potential of digital learning as we move forward into a new world. We will be working on this through the *Curriculum, digital and home learning work stream*, engaging with you along the way to share our collective thinking and colleagues' experiences. We want to learn from what has been tried in the city and beyond in recent months to further refine home learning and reshape the future education offer. We trust that you will come on that journey with us and in the meantime explore the opportunities, if you haven't already, that online learning provides for good teaching and for teachers to interact with pupils and pupils with their peers. Be assured that the local authority will be exploring ways and means of enhancing all pupils' access to technology, including connectivity to establish the foundations for high-quality digital learning for the future.