

Online Learning Guidance and Resources

Schools week article about things to look out for when delivering online learning

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/why-this-is-not-the-time-for-large-scale-educational-experiments/>

This is the summary:

1. It is important not to overload pupils with busy work, but to help them develop two fundamental habits instead: attending limited but scheduled online lessons (health permitting) and completing specified independent tasks weekly.
2. When organising sessions, keep them at fixed times, and not too frequent. Appropriate lessons for online learning are concise (15 to 20 minutes). Then, carefully choose the delivery channels and check the environment's functionalities to maximise potential and make objectives and expectations explicit to focus on supporting progress. Sharing worked examples with students before they start practising on their own is an effective strategy, and online videos are particularly good for this.
3. Use assessment formatively. Instead of focusing on regular tests or exams, the shift to distance learning is an opportunity to use testing as a learning strategy. This kind of retrieval practice can be quicker and less time-consuming, and research shows pupil motivation and success increase when they're given low-stakes (self)tests to activate prior knowledge. Flash cards and Kahoot are accessible tools for this purpose.
4. Effective feedback is crucial. It should be goal-oriented and focused on progress. Here too worked examples are very useful. An efficient and effective feedback process should provide clarity on success criteria, transparency about timing, and require pupils to increase effort and aspiration.
5. Pupils don't spontaneously choose the most effective learning strategies or plan their time efficiently. Yet that is precisely what distance learning requires them to do and relying on their metacognitive skills risks increasing the attainment gap. Processing content by explaining subject matter or problem-solving steps in their own words to themselves, family or peers can be helpful. Importantly, they will need support to space their studying over time. Multiple study sessions for each topic will ensure they review content. Three over a week is ideal. And of course, make sure pupils feel valued for the work they are doing. Success contributes to motivation, so acknowledging progress and attendance is vital.

There is also a RM guide with tutorials on how to use Google and Microsoft: <https://www.rm.com/education/covid-19>

They also have daily top tips on

twitter https://twitter.com/search?q=%23RMtoptips&src=typed_query with #RMtop tips.