

Current FAQs for Home Learning
Darrick Wood School, November 2020

Dear all,

This document, and range of answered FAQs, is designed to help you support your child or children when home learning. At Darrick Wood School, our aim is to ensure that all students are able to access learning and are able to engage in the learning process, whether at home or in school. As a result, this has helped to inform our current practice and policy, although we are continually evaluating our provision and we are always welcome to feedback from all stakeholders.

Kind regards,

Mr J Eynon

What is Darrick Wood School's main provision for Home Learning?

1. *Voiceover PowerPoints and/or pre-prepared videos (e.g. screen recordings) are the primary method of provision*
2. *Resources should be uploaded on to Teams, in the files area, for each class*
3. *If well, teachers will be free, ready to answer any questions from the class, at the time of the lesson (either via email or on the Posts section of the Classroom on Teams) if viable*
4. *There is very little difference between pre-recording and then uploading a lesson, and teaching 'live' where students cannot talk and only watch.*

What if the majority of students are in school, but my child (or children) is/are learning at home?

The teacher will teach the in-school class, but will upload learning resources in to the Files area in their Classroom on Teams, so that your child can keep up with the learning. Please do not expect voice-over PowerPoints, as this not a realistic workload expectation on staff. During the allotted lesson time, your teacher will be in the classroom and, if possible, they will do their very best to answer any questions that come in from home learners on Teams or via email during the normal lesson time.

What if a small number of students are in school, but my child (or children) is/are learning learning at home?

The teacher will teach the in-school class, but will upload learning resources in to the Files area in their Classroom on Teams, so that your child can keep up with the learning. Please do not expect voice-over PowerPoints, as this not a realistic workload expectation on staff. During the allotted lesson time, your teacher will be in the classroom and, if possible, they will do their very best to answer any questions that come in from home learners on Teams or via email during the normal lesson time.

What if all students in the class are at home for the lesson?

The teacher will prepare and provide a voice-over PowerPoint (or similar), and possibly some additional learning resources. This can be found on Teams, in the Classroom in Files for each class. This may be prepared before the lesson time, or during the lesson time and then uploaded during the normal lesson time. This is so that staff can manage their workload fairly and still have the time to produce quality learning resources. The teacher, either at home or in school, will do their very best to answer any questions that come in from home learners on Teams or via email during the normal lesson time.

What if the teacher is working from home?

If the teacher is working from home, but well enough to work, then resources will be provided on Teams, in the Classroom, in the Files area. If possible, the teacher will do their very best to answer any questions that come in from home learners on Teams or via email during the normal lesson time. If the teacher is at home, but all (or some) students are in school, then it might be viable that the teacher will facilitate some of the in-class learning over Teams, via the cover teacher, but a decision to do so is at the teacher's discretion. Often, teachers will have other home circumstances to take account of at the same time as working from home.

Why are most lessons not 'live lessons'? I think I've heard that other schools do this.

The vast majority of schools do not offer, and have not found it possible to offer, live lessons to date. A recent UK-wide survey found that only 4% of secondary schools found 'live teaching' viable and successful. At present, it's not possible to teach 'live' lessons for the vast majority of lessons, although our provision has allowed us to offer this in some sixth form lessons, alongside trials in a couple of departments. This is for a number of reasons:

- 1. Not all students, who are learning at home, are able to access the live lesson at the lesson time. This is due to several factors, including sharing electronic resources or internet access at home, internet instability and other family circumstances. Approximately 30% of children at Darrick Wood School share electronic devices (e.g. laptops/tablets) to access learning. This means that, if only live lessons were provided, a significant number of students would not be able to access our provision*
- 2. Not all staff have the technology that will enable them to 'teach live' and record the lesson to then upload for others to access at a later time*
- 3. There are potential GDPR and safeguarding issues that may be breached through 'live' teaching on Teams (or any other platform) at this present moment in time. This makes recording 'live' teaching (and subsequently uploading it for those who couldn't previously access at the lesson time) not possible at present either*
- 4. When some students are home learning, and others are in class, there is a risk that conversations in class may be broadcast home, which would not be appropriate in some circumstances*

We have trialled some 'live' teaching scenarios but please do not assume, just because these have taken place, that it's what we can do across every lesson. That's not to say things might not change but, until our provision in this regard is safe and can be accessed by all students at all times, our main method of provision will be via voice-over PowerPoint and video.

What if a teacher plans to 'live teach' a lesson and your child or children (who are learning at home) will not have access to a device at this time?

This is the primary reason why the majority of our lessons will not be 'live'. If you have some students in class, and others at home, teachers will aim to upload some accessible, clear work for those at home and students can also use existing resources such those published by the Oak Academy or other reliable online resources.

Does the PowerPoint/presentation/video/screen recording need to last for the lesson duration?

No, not at all. Ideally, voice-over PowerPoints or learning videos would be 15-20 minutes in length (so that everyone can watch it once, some twice) and this then allows your child, or children, time to pause the presentation, complete activities and complete the work that is part of their lesson.