



February 2021

## Online Lessons V's Pre-recorded Lessons:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

During this period of school closure, remote learning provision will continue in the format of pre-recorded lessons, SeeSaw and Google Classroom.

With regards to live online lessons, all academic research at primary level is that live online lessons are ineffective. They can be summed up in the following: the medium of instruction is far less important than the quality of the instruction.

When it comes to live online lessons, the only advantage from the research was that they are good for very small groups for short bursts of time. However, they rely on close to 100% attendance. Unfortunately, attendance at whole class live lessons is <70% on average and because it is against GDPR and Child Protection guidelines to record these lessons, we find ourselves with 30-40% of children missing the curriculum. In primary school, it is also essential that parents sit with their children during live sessions. This would be different to second level where students own their own devices. Also at second level, lessons are generally lectures where students take notes. Primary education is very different.

Best practice would suggest that a teacher videos what they wish to teach in 5-8 minute sessions and then gives a mix of tasks to support that learning. These tasks should then be uploaded to an agreed area and the teacher should respond to the work at an agreed time. As well as this, if a parent feels their child is struggling with a concept, the parent can contact the teacher directly for some extra help. Where children are receiving learning support, a support teacher also works with children and this will generally be the same amount of time that they receive when they are in school.

It is also important to know that remote learning will never be as good as face-to-face learning in a classroom. All schools are reliant on government instruction. Nobody thinks remote learning is a good alternative to normal school but it is the best available option to us at present to try and continue the curriculum.

- For further information, here is an article in the Irish Times published over the weekend, discussing remote learning:

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/homeschooling-2-0-it-s-very-different-i-feel-the-pressure-is-off-this-time-1.4459407>

- This is the biggest Irish study of remote learning, which might be useful to read: <https://cslstudy.ie/news/>

- Here is another good article about live lessons and why they aren't as effective as one might think:

<https://www.tes.com/news/coronavirus-schools-online-learning-are-live-lessons-really-better-recorded-ones>

Is mise le meas,

*Catherine Tiernan - Bell*

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Principal