



*We aim to be the school of choice at the heart of our community.  
Through living our Christian values, all children and adults at WCEJS have the opportunity to flourish as individuals.  
We nurture the curiosity to learn, the courage to lead and the compassion to care.*

## Home Learning

You may be feeling a little overwhelmed by the current situation. We hope that some of these tips will help.

### Structure and routine

Home-schooling does not have to be completely regimented and you do not have to replicate the school day. However, totally unstructured and chaotic days can be anxiety-inducing for children. Do make it clear that this is not an extended holiday and that part of the day will be set aside for learning.



### Learning space

Learning doesn't just take place indoors. We thoroughly recommend getting outside and enjoying a variety of learning experiences that do not involve sitting down in front of a screen or with a pencil and paper. Children should not be expected to sit at a table for lengthy periods of time, but if you have room, it may help your child to



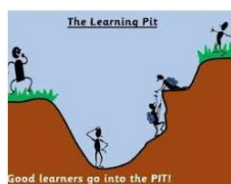
create their own personal learning space. Encourage your child to be involved in this and try to limit distractions such as music, TV or other children enjoying 'down time' around them during learning time.

### Flexibility

Adapt your home schooling and learning times to suit your child, including them in the planning of the day – what they will do and how long for (they may even want to design a plan for the day / week together with rewards). Be positive and provide choice. If your child is struggling with a suggested learning task, divide the task into smaller chunks of time. Be flexible. After a suitable amount of work is completed, offer a reward of a less formal activity or a game.

### Communication and attitudes

Try to take on the role of 'facilitator'. Avoid sitting with your child but do check in now and again to assess and praise progress. Encourage them to grapple with the challenges and learn from mistakes – not everything is expected to be 'right.' Ask your child to tell you about 'The Learning Pit'. Could they design a personalised 'Learning Pit' for use at home to show their emotions and strategies?



## Enjoyment

Enjoy both 'down time' and less structured learning experiences. Don't forget low-tech activities. Be creative.



This is the ideal opportunity to become arty and crafty! Play games and make games. Don't forget 'home economics' and get everyone cooking and eating together. Inspire curiosity to find out about the unknown. If these suggestions don't appeal, find something that does. What is your child really interested in? Now is the perfect time for 'passion projects!'

### Be realistic:

- You're not expected to become teachers. Simply providing your children with some structure at home will help them to adapt (weekly expectations are shared on the school website – parents\extended learning).
- Experiment, then take stock. What's working and what isn't? Ask your children, involve them too
- Most junior school children can concentrate for around 15 minutes before needing a change in focus – so don't expect too much!
- Work will not be taken in for marking at the end of this period of enforced closure – so don't be worried if it's not perfect.

### Looking after ourselves

It is going to be more important than ever to focus on well-being and to look after our mental health. Take time to get fresh air and exercise, have fun and find the things that help us to relax. Your children will have much to process during this uncertain time and it is important to acknowledge and to listen to any worries (links to advice and activities will be made available on the school website shortly: parents\COVID-19 Support).

### Finding the positives

Children can keep up with what is happening around the world, in particular finding out about some of the positive changes that are becoming evident as we progress through this situation.

As parents and carers, we cannot fix everything, but we can show children the power of feeling listened to and valued. Helping children and ourselves to become resilient during this time, maybe the most important lesson we will all learn.