

Ten great questions to ask your child to check how their online learning is going.

As we adjust to learning from home, it is important to understand that we cannot replicate what we do in school and that we can only try to do our best. Never has the partnership between school and home been more important and the following questions are suggestions of things you can ask your child in order to support them in their learning. As a rule, try to avoid questions that can be answered with a “yes”, “no” or “I’m fine”. These are only suggestions - you know your child/ren best!

1. Which subjects have set you work today?

By asking for specifics, your child will have to give you a list and you can follow up by asking which ones they enjoy the most or find the most difficult.

2. Which subjects are you going to study today?

Again, by asking for specific subjects, they will set out their plan for the day. You can follow up by asking which will take the most time or which they will do first. Your child is learning how to prioritise.

3. How is your learning going?

Be careful not to accept the answer: “It’s fine”. Try to ask a follow up question that starts with ‘what’, ‘which’ or ‘why’ so that your child goes into more specific issues that you can support with.

4. What time do you intend to finish your work today?

Again, be careful not to accept a simple response such as “later on” or “don’t know”. By asking this question, you are getting your child to consider their routine and workload. You can then support them.

5. Which of your friends have you spoken to today, and how are they?

This question will encourage your child to take a little mental break from their work, get them thinking about their friends and you can check their wellbeing.

6. Can I help you with anything?

Your child is likely to respond with a “No, I’m fine” but perhaps ask, “Are you sure?” a couple of times to check. Only ask if you have some time to sit with them for a while and explore / support further.

7. When do you plan to take a break?

By asking for a specific time, you are encouraging your child to think about their routine and take control of their learning. This looks after their general wellbeing.

8. Can you show me some of the work that you have done today?

This question is very important. It is not easy to monitor the quality of your child’s work. However, by asking to see, you will check that they have done something and have not just marked as completed without working hard on a task. It also gives you a great chance to praise and encourage your child.

9. Have your teachers given you any comments or feedback on your work?

This question builds the dialogue about their learning and allows you to give further praise and encouragement. If you ask what you think the teacher means, then your child will deepen their learning by thinking about how they can improve.

10. What has been the most interesting thing that you have learnt today?

This question helps review learning and gives you the chance to have a wider, richer and deeper conversation about their learning. This is a great question to ask at meal times!

REMEMBER, IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT SCHOOL, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CHILD’S HOY.