



**St Ralph  
Sherwin**  
Catholic Multi Academy Trust



20th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

This period has been challenging for everyone and we hope you're all adjusting well in these difficult circumstances.

We wanted to get in touch with all our parents/carers keeping their children at home to let you know about our approach to home learning and what we're expecting from you and your children.

Our amazing staff have been working hard to make sure we can continue to provide education for your children. As a reminder, our current approach is:

We have decided as a school to use the Department for Education backed National Online Classroom and Resource Hub. This ensures that children are continuing with their education and that we are consistent across the whole school. We also want to keep things as easy as possible for you all and thought that with all lessons being in one place (one click away!) - that would help!

Each day there will be a schedule to follow for English, Maths and Foundation subjects. Lessons will be an hour long and include a quiz, a video explanation from the teacher and a worksheet. We would suggest completing the English and Maths over the course of the morning and the Foundation lesson in the afternoon. We also fully understand that everyone's circumstances will be different and that you will complete lessons as/when fits in with your family routines.

Please click on the link to access and select your child's year group.

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom/schedule>

We are using ClassDojo Portfolios for pupils to submit work to their class teacher, this has been an effective way to communicate and keep us all connected.

We hope you can understand that we can't deliver the same sort of education we do when the school is fully open, but your children won't miss out by not being in school at the moment. We've tried to keep everyone's workloads – both pupils learning at home and those in school – comparable, appropriate and realistic during this turbulent period.

Please don't worry about your children getting behind with learning. Everyone's in the same boat, and when things get back to normal, we'll make sure we get everyone back on track.

You may have seen different approaches from other schools in the news, such as providing live lessons online. We decided not to do this because we know that some families in our community don't have the technology/time/circumstances at home to support this kind of learning at the moment, so we're focusing on supporting pupils to learn in the most widely accessible ways possible. In addition, some of our teachers have their own care responsibilities at home, such as their own young children, and it can be difficult to fit these around live lessons.



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We'll continue to review how we deliver home learning.

Supporting learning at home - the government has pulled together a helpful list of websites, (the link is below) to support learning at home, which have been identified by some of the country's leading educational experts. They offer a wide range of support and resources for pupils of all ages. They are currently being offered free of charge.

The list includes subject-specific resources for:

- [English](#)
- [maths](#)
- [science](#)
- [PE](#)
- [wellbeing](#)
- [Special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\)](#)

Individual resources cannot replace a school's properly planned curriculum, and the resources in this list are not intended to do so. They may be useful for parents in considering how they could support their children's education, but they should not be used in place of existing resources which schools may be using as part of their continued provision for pupils' education at this time.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

If you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please let us know by emailing [scarr@sa-rc.co.uk](mailto:scarr@sa-rc.co.uk)

If you're finding it hard at home with your child and are struggling to cope, call [Family Lives](#) for free, confidential advice on **0808 800 2222**.

If you're worried about the safety of another child in our community, call the [NSPCC](#) on **0808 800 5000**. Or call the police on **999** if you think a child is in immediate danger.

If you're concerned about the symptoms of the virus please find advice for those with symptoms or living with someone with symptoms on the NHS website online <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

We're extremely grateful for all the support we've received so far from the school community.

Yours sincerely

Sean McClafferty  
CEO

Julia Wiggins  
Headteacher

Stacey Carr  
Assistant Head