

Glossary of Remote Learning Terminology

As more of us engage with digital technology in innovative ways to support effective communication and learning at home, it is important that we have a shared understanding of what is meant by some of the more common terms. This short glossary is intended to help support consistency of use and to provide some clarity about what is meant by terms, some of which may have been previously unfamiliar. This glossary is not intended to be exhaustive or definitive, rather it is intended to be used a 'working list' to support all practitioners.

Term	Definition
Asynchronous learning	Children and young people undertake learning activities without direct supervision from the teacher. These activities may be digital or traditional. Learners can communicate with their teacher at their own pace or within a set time period. For example a teacher setting a specific project and asking young people to check in through a discussion board if they have any questions.
Blended learning	Includes learning that happens in real time (synchronous), alongside a teacher such as online discussions and learning which happens at the learners pace (asynchronous) such as project work.
E-learning	E-learning or electronic learning is the umbrella term used to describe education using electronic devices and digital media. Much of our learning now involves e-learning both in and outside of the classroom environment.
Home schooling/ home education	When a parent/ family make the decision to withdraw their child from their local authority school and education system and decide to teach their child solely at home. <i>Note: This is a decision made by families to teach their children from home rather than send their children to school. The current situation is the result of a public health need rather than parental choice or decision, thus why Education Scotland is not using this term to describe current arrangements.</i>
Learning at home	Learning at home is a broad term used to describe the learning which happens out with early learning and childcare settings and schools. It can take place through everyday activities including play and general family life, such as food preparation and cooking. It can also happen through curriculum related activities, homework, reading and sharing books. This is the term used within the Parental Involvement Act and is therefore the preferred term to be used. More information can be found here .

Parentzone Scotland	<p>Education Scotland website for parents which has information and resources to help parents support their child's education.</p> <p><i>Note: If you only use the term ParentZone rather than ParentZone Scotland, you will be taken to the English site rather than the Scottish version.</i></p>
<p>Remote learning</p>	<p>Occurs when a learner and teacher are separated by time and/or distance and therefore cannot meet in a traditional classroom setting. Information is typically transmitted via technology such as email, discussion boards, video conferencing, etc. No physical presence is required.</p>
<p>Synchronous learning</p>	<p>Online learning in which children and young people can learn from their teacher in real time. For example a teacher teaching to a group of children or class using digital technologies.</p>