



# National Overview of Practice

Supporting the quality and effectiveness of the delivery of remote learning – frequently asked questions

---

## What is the national overview of practice?

HM Inspectors of Education are carrying out a programme of 'national overviews', during the period of remote learning. These will seek to identify what is working well in the delivery of remote learning and where further support is required.

---

## What is the purpose of this work?

The purpose of the national overview is to:

- Learn what is working well and share this widely to celebrate success and support consistency in the quality and effectiveness of delivery of remote learning.
- Identify the challenges and/or issues so that these can be addressed either locally or nationally, as appropriate.
- Identify what further assistance is required to continue to improve the delivery of remote learning so that relevant support can be provided at local and /or national level.

---

## What information will HM Inspectors use to develop national overviews?

HM Inspectors will use information collected from various sources including engagement with individual schools and local authorities.

**What will be produced as a result of this exercise?**

A series of reports, called a national overview of practice, will be published on an ongoing basis.

**What will the reports include?**

The reports will provide an insight into how remote learning is being delivered in Scotland. These reports will be based on information that HM Inspectors will gather through discussions with local authorities; a selection of schools; and parents/carers and learners.

**When will HM Inspectors begin this work?**

There will be a phased approach to gathering the information needed to develop the national overview of practice with the first phase starting immediately. There will be three reports published during phase 1, as follows:

<b>National overview of practice</b>	<b>Date of information gathering</b>	<b>Date when report will be published</b>
<b>Local authorities</b> - planning and guidance for remote learning	Week commencing 11 January 2021	22 January 2021
<b>Schools</b> - what's working well; concerns and issues; where further support is required	Week commencing 18 January 2021	29 January 2021
<b>Parent/carers and learners</b> - views and experiences		29 January 2021

**Why are you carrying out a programme of national overviews at this time?**

Everyone in Scotland wants to ensure that children and young people are participating in learning which is motivating, engaging and meets their needs during this period of remote learning. Undertaking the programme of national overviews at this time means we can share with practitioners what is working well and identify what further assistance is required. As we are now in this period of remote learning we want to publish the national overview of practice as early as possible so that practitioners and parents have information that will help and support them at this time.

**How will information be gathered from local authorities?**

Local authorities will be asked to provide their guidance and planning for remote learning to HM Inspectors who will review and discuss these with the local authority.

---

**How will information be gathered from schools?**

HM Inspectors will be contacting a selection of schools across Scotland to have a discussion with them, by phone or online. These discussions will focus on what is working well in the delivery of remote learning; listening to concerns and challenges; and learning what further support is needed.

---

**Will my school be involved?**

We will discuss with the local authority a selection of schools. This will be approximately 5% of schools in your local authority. This will include primary, secondary and special schools.

---

**When will the discussions with schools take place?**

Discussions will start to take place week beginning 18 January 2021. HM Inspectors will arrange a suitable time for the discussion with school leaders, and if possible, practitioners.

---

**My school has been selected for a remote learning discussion. What should I expect?**

An HM Inspector will contact the headteacher to arrange a suitable time for a brief discussion. The discussion will take place virtually, either online or by telephone, whichever works best for you. The focus of the discussion will be to reflect on the delivery of remote learning. HM Inspectors will be listening to and learning about your experiences.

---

**How long will the discussion last?**

The discussion will last around 30-40 minutes and will be focused on helping us understand what is working in your context; listening to any concerns and challenges you have; and learning what further support may be needed, either locally or nationally.

---

**Are there any specific questions that HM Inspectors will ask?**

The discussion will focus on three aspects:

- talking about what is working in their own context;
- listening to concerns and any challenges; and
- learning what further support is needed.

**Will HM Inspectors be joining any virtual classes?**

No. HM Inspectors will not join any lessons.

---

**Do I need to prepare any paperwork for the HM Inspectors ahead of the planned discussion?**

No. We want to minimise the burden on schools. We will not be asking schools to provide any documentation in advance of, or as part of, the discussion.

---

**If practice is identified in our school that is working really well, will this be shared?**

Absolutely. We want to capture what is working well for your learners at this time and share it widely so that others can learn from what is working.

---

**Will there be a report about my school?**

No. This is not an inspection so there will be no individual school reports or gradings. A national overview report will be published.

---

**How will the information be shared?**

Each national overview of practice report will be published on the Education Scotland [website](#).

---

**I am a parent/carer, will I be able to provide my views?**

Absolutely. It is extremely important that we understand the experiences of parents/carers during this period of remote learning. We are engaging with national organisations such as National Parent Forum of Scotland and Connect Scotland to consider the best ways to do this.

---

**I am a learner, will I be able to provide my views?**

Yes. Your views and experiences are extremely important. As a learner you are at the centre of remote learning and we want to learn more about the approaches that have worked for you and to help us understand the challenges that are being faced. We are engaging with organisations such as the Children's Parliament, Young Scot and the Scottish Youth Parliament to help us to gather the views of children and young people.

### **How will this help schools deliver remote learning?**

In developing the national overview of practice we want to share what is working well in schools across Scotland. We have already seen examples of how our schools adapted to remote learning in March 2020 and now that we are in this latest phase of school closures we know that there will many more examples that can be shared. This will help to celebrate success and support consistency in the quality and effectiveness of delivery of remote learning.

We also know that there are many challenges in delivering remote learning and by undertaking this exercise we can help identify the issues and challenges being faced, so that support can be provided either nationally or at a more local level as appropriate.

---

### **What happens beyond phase 1?**

We will continue to develop the national overview of practice for the duration of remote learning delivery. We will use the information we gather from our discussions about what is working well and the challenges being faced to continue to build a picture of how remote learning is being delivered and what further support is required.

It is important to make best use of the findings to help support and improve the delivery of remote learning, as required. Following phase 1 the findings will be reviewed. The outcomes will direct the areas of focus of successive phases, should remote learning continue.

---

### **Where can I find national advice and guidance on remote learning?**

During the period of remote learning the national emphasis on high quality learning and teaching remains. Education Scotland worked with partners and stakeholders to develop and publish on 8 January [remote learning guidance](#) that sets out the national expectations for remote learning and the entitlements for children and young people during the period.