

LOCKDOWN LEARNING

WHAT HAVE SCHOOL CLOSURES BEEN LIKE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

On 23 March 2020, the coronavirus pandemic meant that schools had to close to most pupils. Lots of you stopped going to school each day and started learning from home.

We wanted to know what you thought about schools being closed. So we asked you some questions!

We **surveyed** 1074 children and young people from all across Scotland.

You told us about some of the **positives**; the things your teachers do to brighten up your day, the new ways you might be connecting with your classmates and what you're looking forward to when you go back.

What's a survey?

A way of finding out information by asking people questions.

What has your school done that's been helpful?

My teacher has been sending lovely messages and videos on Teams and the school Facebook page that make me feel happy. I can ask questions on Teams or by emailing and my teacher will answer them.

Girl, age 8

She has given us lots of learning materials and fun thing activities. I like it when she marks things and has a comment just for me.

Boy, age 8

My teacher has been so supportive and she is always so fast to reply if I need help.

Girl, age 12

They give us some homework and advice. Other teachers check in on us. Our English teacher updates us on plays that are streaming online.

Young woman, age 16



For lots of you, not going into school has been hard. You told us about missing your friends and teachers and not always having the things you needed to do your school work. You also told us about some of things that would have been helpful while you've been at home.

What else could your school do that would be helpful? What do you need?

I need computer to do my assignment. Five of us share one computer in the family.

Young woman, age 15

I miss having little chats with my teacher especially if I have been crying or upset. I would like to see my teacher.

Girl, age 7

I'd like some feedback on work handed in, it's very demoralising not to receive any.

Young man, age 13

Support to keep connection with school and friends during normal school hours.

Young woman, age 14

Laptop doesn't work very well. Not got a printer to print things out.

Boy, age 12

What are you looking forward to most when you go back to school?

I know this sounds childish but playing hide and seek with a few mates. Getting stuck behind and under tables. Running round the school like idiots... I will also enjoy the actual learning as it's the first time in like ever I can say that I want to be back at school.

Young man, age 15

I just want to go to school to see everyone, that's what will make me happy.

Boy, age 12

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone, teachers and friends and I'm looking forward to being able to learn properly again.

Young woman, age 13

What next?

We asked you to tell us what your schools could do to support you. That's because we think all children and young people should have equal access to learning. No one should miss out because their family has less money, or because they don't have certain equipment. After reading what you and your parents and carers told us, we have come up with some recommendations for schools, councils and the government.

What's a recommendation?

A suggested action that should be taken; the best thing to do.

These are inspired by what you said.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Give all children and young people the tools, equipment and resources they need to learn at home and school. For example this could be laptops, internet access, pens and paper, textbooks and reading books.



More children should be able to get school meals for free as lots of families would benefit from this.

Schools should have lots of contact with pupils and families while they're at home, as this helps pupils to learn and supports their wellbeing.



Schools should think about what going to school is like for children and young people whose families have less money. They should take action to make sure all children are able to participate in every part of school life.

Families should be able to say what they think should happen when you return to school. Children and their parents and carers should be involved in planning what happens.



Questions to discuss at home or at school:

1. Was there anything in this report that surprised you?
2. Which quote do you relate to most and why?
3. How much do you think money affects people's experience of school and learning?
4. Which of our recommendations do you think is the most important and why?

This survey was done by Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland. We are a charity that aims to prevent and end child poverty.

Our Cost of the School Day project helps to make sure children in homes that don't have much money can still take part in all school activities.