

Advice for Parents and Carers – Special Schools

Who can help?

- Your child's school will provide information about activities which are most suitable for your child and which it is possible and realistic for families to deliver at home.
- School staff will check in to see how your child is and will share ideas and resources that might be helpful so that children and young people can continue to progress in their learning. This might be through online videos, phone calls and home learning packs with links to useful websites.
- Staff from your child's school will try their best to help with any problems you have and can ask advice from other partners if they don't have the answers.
- Learning opportunities from our special schools can be accessed using the links on the right of this page.

[Braidburn School](#)
[Kaimes School](#)
[Oaklands School](#)
[Pirrig Park School](#)
[Prospect Bank School](#)
[Redhall School](#)
[Rowanfield School](#)
[St Crispin's School](#)
[Woodlands School](#)

Where can my child work?

- Your child will be able to learn and develop skills in different areas of the home.
- Outside learning can also be helpful if you have a garden or safe access to an outside space. Children and young people with disabilities, including those with learning disabilities or autism who require specific exercise in an open space more than once a day can do so. You can find more information about this [here](#).

What should my child be doing?

- Your child's school will share activities built around the development of communication and adaptive functioning skills. This will be planned by a teacher who knows your child well.
- Home learning may also involve the use of digital technology. Some learners will be able to independently access learning resources online, so that they can continue to work towards their learning targets. Schools will support these learners by providing learning materials, information about online resources and in some cases virtual teaching to help them progress in their learning.
- You are not expected to become teachers and your children aren't expected to learn as they do in school. We know the particular challenges faced by families of children with complex additional support needs, and we understand that learning will not happen every day.
- Your child's school will provide opportunities for you to discuss their learning and next steps. The frequency and method of doing this will be communicated by your child's school.
- Distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life.
- You could get your child to write in a diary or spend 10 minutes talking about what they did each day – this can be a clear sign that the 'school' day has ended.

Why am I learning this?

- Some children will be able to understand why they are learning something at home that they would usually be doing at school. Your child's school will be able to share ideas about explaining this to your child, for example using a social story.
- Some children may not understand why they are learning something at home that they would usually be doing at school. You may prefer not to use the term 'learning' at all and focus on skills activities which you know your child will engage with.

When should my child be learning?

- For most children and young people with complex additional support needs it is unrealistic to expect sustained periods of focused learning at home and we know that trying to do this can be stressful for both children and their families.
- Routine is important. This will help make their days more predictable.
- It is important for you and your child that learning activities are chunked into short blocks and that there are not too many different activities in a day.