Guidance for teachers

Learning at home

Purpose

This guidance is aimed at providing teachers and school leaders with support and resources for students who are learning from home, and advice about resources that can be provided to parents/carers and students.

For teachers

The following guidance may assist teachers as they plan to deliver teaching and learning to students working from home.

Use online pedagogy

Let pedagogy inform how you will use technology to enhance effective engagement with your students. Focus on:

- strategies that value two-way communication and that support learners in an online format

- evidence-based, high-probability teaching strategies that transfer to online learning, such as explicit teaching, setting learning goals, checking for understanding and providing feedback, and chunking information into meaningful parts.

Ensure you plan for a blend of synchronous (in real time) and asynchronous (not in real time) learning opportunities for students who may not be able to access a computer at a designated time. Be sure to plan a:

- balance of individual activities and those that require collaboration

- variety of activities, e.g. creative, reflective and analytical.

Establish norms

Establishing strong foundations for learning are important. Following these norms for learning and classroom behaviour is as necessary in an online learning environment as it is in your physical classroom.

Be sure to establish how students are to interact with each other and with you, e.g. determine if you will use a chat or discussion board, or a 'raise hand' feature in some platforms.

Develop priorities

Unit and lesson planning

Working with faculty heads or deans of teaching and learning, determine subject/year level priorities and ensure unit and lesson planning reflect this. Consider the pace and coverage of subject matter.

Queensland Government

QCAA
Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority

210804

For all Queensland schools

Avoid overwhelming students by giving them too many learning activities at once, e.g. a fortnight's work.

Establish communication with students and parents/carers

Acknowledge that this is an uncertain time. Reassure students and their parents/carers with regular and clear communication from teachers and the school and establish ways for students and their families to contact you. This will strengthen and support learning.

Communicating expectations to parents/carers around the support role they will play is vital. The expectations are not that they replace the classroom teacher, rather, they support the work being completed.

Communicate clear timelines

Teachers should create and communicate a schedule that shows what students will need to do and by when. Providing regular feedback to students and parents/carers on student learning progress will assist the completion of work and assessment by the due date.

For senior secondary students

The QCAA is committed to supporting all students in Queensland as they complete their senior years of schooling. Resources are available on the Teaching tab for each subject page to assist students and their parents/carers as they learn from home:

- *Effective study strategies*
- *Advice for Year 11 and 12 students learning from home* (available for each senior subject).

For parents/carers

Parents/carers will play key support roles as students learn from home, making clear communication between teacher, student and parents/carers key. The most important thing parents/carers can do is to continue to provide routine, support and encouragement for their student/s.

A factsheet for parents/carers that includes a list of strategies to support students as they learn from home is available on the teaching tab for each senior subject and the QCAA website coronavirus updates: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/coronavirus-updates/for-students-and-parentscarers.

Learning tools and resources

Queensland Government Department of Education

The Department of Education has a number of online tools and resources to support students. learning@home includes a range of activities, advice and resources for teachers, students and their families.

This collection of resources can be accessed via the Department of Education website: https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/learning-at-home.

Short videos for educators, students and parents/carers

TED-Ed@home includes free high-quality, interactive, video-based lessons delivered daily via email.

These short videos in the TED Talk style, with support material designed for use in digital education (US and global content) are available from the TED-Ed homepage: https://ed.ted.com.

Strategies for retaining and recalling information for assessment

This toolkit provides teachers with practical strategies that improve learning, support the retrieval and retention of material, and prepare students for assessment, including internal and external assessment in the QCE system. Each strategy within the toolkit provides an overview and a practical method for using the strategy in lessons.

This resource is available from the QCAA Portal > Noticeboard app > Strategies for retaining and recalling information for assessment.

Strategies that check for understanding

This resource presents a series of tools to enhance practices that support both learning and the introduction of the new senior assessment system. Applied well, these teaching strategies provide evidence of learner progress. By using this evidence of learning to make decisions about instruction and differentiation, learning in lessons becomes tailored to the individual needs of each student, improving the rate at which they learn and their overall achievement.

This resource is available from the QCAA Portal > Noticeboard app > Strategies that check for understanding.

Using mock external assessments: A guide for teachers

This guide provides teachers with information and advice for planning how they will use the mock external assessments to prepare for summative external assessments. It suggests activities to familiarise teachers with the full suite of assessment resources and provides advice about using these resources to support teaching and learning.

This resource is available from the QCAA Portal > Noticeboard app > Using mock external assessment: A guide for teachers.