

16th July 2020

What is a Recovery Curriculum?

When all pupils return to school in September there needs to be a Recovery Curriculum in place to support them to understand what has happened and to re-establish routines. For most pupils their daily goal in going to school is not just to learn but to see their friends and to feel a sense of self-worth that this can offer. We cannot underestimate the impact of the loss of social interaction, it is key to pupil's development. During the last few months pupils have experienced many losses such as **routine, structure, friendship, opportunity and freedom**; it is important for us to address this loss if we are to ensure our young people are mentally healthy. The Recovery Curriculum focuses on developing not just lost knowledge but also dealing with the wellbeing of our pupils by addressing this feeling of loss so that pupils can re-engage as learners.

As we have lived through the crisis, we have experienced 3 stages of development:

- React and Support
- Recover
- Respond and Rejuvenate



React and Support – cope with the here and now and manage the crisis as it unfolds



Recover – Deal with the social and emotional impact, assess the current situation and any gaps in knowledge and plan for the curriculum longer term



Respond and Rejuvenate – Ongoing assessment will continue to lead our responses whilst we reframe our understanding of the world and emerge stronger and rejuvenated

Our Recovery Curriculum addresses these areas; this document aims to answer some of your queries.

Frequently asked questions



React and Support

How have you stayed connected with families and pupils and offered support to the community?

Across our schools, staff have communicated using a variety of different methods to both the whole school community and individually as necessary. Schools have remained open from the beginning of the lockdown for pupils of key workers and vulnerable pupils. All those with an entitlement have continued to receive food vouchers and will continue to do so throughout the summer.

How have you ensured that all pupils have access to home learning even though some families have been working from home and some don't have access to the internet or a computer?

At the beginning of the pandemic Pathfinder Schools used government guidance to develop principles for home learning. All schools ensured that families had weekly home learning activities that were accessible for all. There was no requirement from the government to cover the curriculum, as they were well aware of the differing situations for families. This has been done in a variety of ways ranging from paper based work packs to apps used online. Schools have designed this around the needs of their families. At Hawthorn we have promoted the use of Oak Academy, BBC Bitesize and White Rose online lessons; we have provided daily tasks via the daily messages on Class Dojo; given children access to Purple Mash, TT Rockstars/Numbots, 10 ticks, Read Theory (KS2) and Spelling Shed websites and apps, as well as providing printed packs for parents who did not have online access. The Community Resource Library has also provided parents with the stationery needed to support home learning.

How have you ensured that school is safe to open?

All Pathfinder Schools have carried out a thorough risk assessment process in full consultation with staff. This has been endorsed by Governing Bodies and Trustees. The health and safety of our pupils, staff and communities has been our main priority throughout. All those pupils who have returned to school this term have settled back in really quickly and loved being back in school.



My child has had very little contact with their friends. How will you make sure that they won't feel left out?

We will provide time for pupils to discuss loss of friendships and social interaction at school to support the building back of strong relationships. When pupils first return this will be a main focus.

My child has spent most of the time with me during the lockdown in much quieter surroundings. They will find it difficult to come back to school. How will you support them?

There will be specific activities designed to support pupils to understand this and to reassure them that this feeling is normal. We will be gathering information about where pupils are in terms of their social and emotional needs, initially by sending out a questionnaire during the summer break, prior to their return to school, and providing support. We will help pupils to understand that if they crave space, that it is not unusual – pupils will all have their own learning groups or 'bubbles'.



Pupils haven't had chance to say goodbye to their old teachers or get used to their new classes – they will find this difficult in September. What will you do?

All pupils have had a letter from their previous teachers and a welcome sheet from their new teacher. All those who are joining our schools have had information and a 'virtual' welcome. Despite the different routines in place all schools will have a safe, happy and welcoming environment in September.

My child is completely out of routine, and will find it difficult to cope with early starts and being at school all day. The behaviour expectations at school are different from those at home. How will this be addressed?

We know that routine is an important part of learning and we will get back 'into the swing of things' as quickly as possible. We will remind everybody of the routines and expectations as many of them will be new to help us stay safe. We will provide plenty of talking time for pupils to share their differing experiences and build in learning routines gradually over time.

Pupils are worried about illness and death and keep asking questions this. Can you offer any support?

We will build this into our curriculum when pupils first come back and help them to realise that their feelings are normal. We will offer support for those pupils who need it.

My child is worried that there will be tests when they come back to school. Should they be worried?



Loss of learning

All assessment will be informal when pupils first return. We will celebrate and value what pupils have achieved and build in time for pupils to share their experiences of lockdown.

My child is worried about starting learning again – and says he/she has forgotten everything. Is this something they should be concerned about?

We will start with a mini topic approach to re-engage learning. We will place the emphasis on social and emotional needs. All schools will focus on resilience and remind pupils of the phrase 'I can't do it yet'. This will be built into the first few weeks back in school.

Should I be worried that my child will never catch up with all the learning that has been missed?

All schools have reorganised the curriculum and highlighted the key areas missed so that they can be built into current curriculum plans. Where pupils have moved schools these will be handed on to new schools.

We haven't managed to do much reading and my child seems to have gone backwards. Can you help?

We know how important reading is in order to access the curriculum. All schools will have a focus on reading to ensure that pupils are reading every day and those who are learning to read will have a focus on phonics.



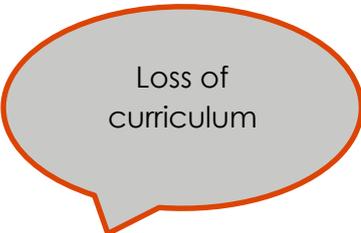
Loss of confidence

My child is anxious and worried about coming back to school. What can you do to help?

We will build in time to share how we are all feeling when we first come back to school and share strategies for dealing with our worries. We will encourage pupils to celebrate what they are good at – both in school and out of school. If you are logged on as a parent to Class Dojo there is a useful link on the whole school story page about how to support children with anxieties.

My child has been in the house most of the time and hasn't had much exercise. Will the school support with this?

There will be lots of opportunity for physical exercise through PE, break times and regular physical brain breaks throughout the day. Each day will start with an 'active session' to help the children to be ready for the day.



Loss of curriculum

My child has been at school the whole time. How will you make sure that school isn't boring? Will guidelines and work just be repeated?

We will be using our 'experts' who have been in school throughout to relay the message that school is a safe place and to teach others

what the rules and guidelines are. We treat all our young people as individuals and will assess where they are in their learning and move them on from there.



Respond and Rejuvenate

If my child is not feeling safe and happy they won't learn. How will you make sure that they are when they are back in school?

The curriculum will focus on wellbeing when pupils return in September.

How will you help pupils to come to terms with what has happened?

Pupils will have the opportunity to share the work that has been carried out at home with the school community.

What will happen if there is a localised lockdown or the bubble my child is in has to self-isolate?

We have been working hard in the background to ensure that all schools will have the technical capacity to deliver the curriculum remotely if necessary. The Trust are looking at the use of Microsoft Teams as a potential tool for staff, pupils and parents to access learning remotely and guidelines will be produced if this is the case. Alternatively, we may continue to offer remote learning through the Class Dojo, as this has been successfully implemented during the period of the current school closure.

Even though you will be covering all the curriculum that has been missed, I am worried that my child will still be behind. Should I be?

The government has offered extra funding to support this. We await further details but as soon as they become available, we will make sure that we fully utilise this funding to support those who need it.

At Pathfinder Schools our values of independence, collaboration and humanity have been our North Star, shining brightly and continually to guide all our decision making as we continue to 'Inspire Greatness'

