



Why the Trust has chosen not to stream ‘live’ lessons to help remote learning:

We recognise that a number of our parents have had questions about why our schools are not live streaming lessons. From the very early days of the COVID 19 crisis, we discussed this as a Trust. Headteachers within the Trust decided for a number of very strong reasons, this was not something we were going to do. The Trust supports this view.

Our reasons for the decision not to ‘live’ stream are below:

We acknowledge not all pupils or teachers have access to video conferencing facilities in their homes and that families may not have an understanding of the technology involved.

To ‘live’ stream an interactive class would be to prescribe to families how time is spent and we know that many families have to fit home schooling around work commitments.

Streaming lessons from your own home is unsustainable for the teachers as many staff including teachers are home schooling as well as working from home which presents the same challenges as those experienced by other parents.

Teachers are spending a lot of time carefully planning and resourcing differentiated learning that matches the needs of pupils. There is also plenty of opportunity for dialogue and feedback to help the children and parents via the school website, phone or email.

We believe that active learning is better than passive learning. We promote an interactive style. Trying to teach via a video link supports a more didactic approach to education that is not in line with our Trust vision for teaching, learning and assessment.

We are promoting an approach where carefully selected resources on each school website can be paused or revisited for clarification by parents or the child themselves.

Two-way video conferencing brings the potential for inappropriate behaviour or allegations, whether this is teaching a whole class of pupils, smaller groups or through 1:1 teaching or pupil tutorials or consultations.

Hacking into pupil and teacher sessions is also possible during ‘live’ video conferencing. Moreover, staff or pupils may witness unsuitable activity or dress, causing upset or distress, complaints and allegations. These are concerns the Trust takes seriously.

In Trust schools, we are promoting pre-recording video content and uploading it onto the school website in our primary schools and onto a virtual learning environment in our secondary schools.

The Trust acknowledges it is difficult to manage the behaviour of a class of pupils when they are all ‘live’ on video but not in the same room as each other. The lack of available ways for the teacher to control and manage inappropriate behaviour, other than shutting down, is a big concern and fraught with difficulty, and one with potentially far-reaching impact when normality returns.



LIGHTHOUSE
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We recognise some pupils are naturally not as willing to engage due to shyness or embarrassment. The Trust has taken the view that it needs to be fair to all and that a 'live' video lesson environment does not provide a level playing field.

In addition, the Trust believes new resources and materials; such as BBC Bitesize <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> and the Oak National Academy <https://www.thenational.academy/> filtered by schools, provide excellent content and better alternatives to 'live' streaming.