

# Learning at home

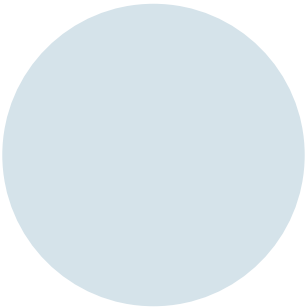
Support for parents and children



# A message from the Minister of Education and Culture



In a challenging time, such as the one we are currently experiencing, we have to have a rethink. We have to reorient ourselves and also take new paths. With the temporary closures of schools until after the Easter holidays, a situation has arisen that was hardly imaginable just a short time ago. The challenges are great for all those involved in school life, for school management, teaching staff, pupils, but also especially for parents and guardians.



The aim of this flyer is to offer our pupils and their parents a few supportive tips to help them organise their “learning from home” as well and effectively as possible.

Now is a time for all the people living in Saarland to pull together to overcome the challenges of the coming days and weeks.

I am convinced that together we can achieve this.



**Christine Streichert-Clivot**  
Minister of Education and Culture

## **Tips for learning at home**

### **Tips for guardians**

#### ✓ **Structure your daily routine**

A clear structure to the day gives your child a feeling of security in a completely changed everyday life (e.g. set mealtimes, routines and rituals). Adding in breaks and recreation periods prevents stressful situations from arising.

#### ✓ **Clearly separate time for learning from time for leisure**

A healthy balance between time for work and time for leisure activities is important for all those involved. Spending an evening playing games together or preparing a favourite meal together makes for a welcome change.

#### ✓ **Design a space that is conducive to work**

If possible, your child should be provided with his/her own workspace complete with all the necessary work materials in a quiet area that is as free as possible of distraction.

#### ✓ **Support your child in organising his/her work**

The aim should be for your child to work through school assignments as independently as possible. It may be helpful to offer your child reasonable support in completing his/her tasks. Your child's work progress can be made clear by ticking these tasks off a list one by one.

#### ✓ **Create a positive atmosphere**

Schoolwork requires a high degree of self-discipline in this exceptional situation. It is all the more important, therefore, to create a positive atmosphere at home in which children can concentrate on their work but also enjoy learning without any pressure. Patience, calmness and a sense of humour are required here. Expectations that are set too high are counterproductive.

#### ✓ **Tip for assessing achievement**

While schools are temporarily closed, the differences in home living conditions of pupils become more apparent than usual. With a view to treating all pupils equally, therefore, work done at home should not be graded. Regular encouraging and constructive exchange between staff and their pupils about their learning progress is so much more important at present!

## Tips for pupils

With the closure of schools, your everyday schooling has completely changed. You now receive tasks and learning assignments from your teachers via e-mail, post or learning platform and you have to be responsible for organising your work at home. You currently also have the freedom, however, to manage your learning yourself. Here are some important tips on how to do well at “learning at home”.

### ✓ **Set up your workspace**

Make sure you are sitting at a tidy workspace and you have all the work materials you need at hand (pens, ruler, books, worksheets, etc.). You should work in silence and avoid all distractions, e.g. music, mobile phone, etc.

### ✓ **Give yourself a daily routine**

Even though there is no bell to signal the start of lessons, you should try to give yourself a set daily routine: When do you work and when do you have free time? Add in a few breaks and get up and move about!

### ✓ **Design your weekly schedule**

At the start of the week, have a look at what tasks and materials your teachers have sent you. What do you have to complete during the week? Don't panic when you see all the tasks you have to do over the week. Divide the week's work into daily portions.

### ✓ **Plan your day**

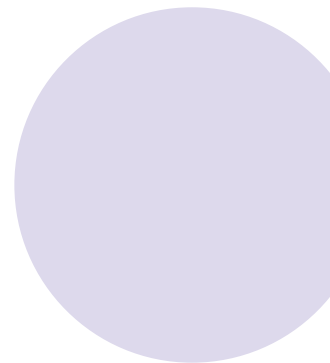
Have a look at your weekly schedule and see what you have to do each day. You decide for yourself which tasks you do first. Tip: It's best to get your least favourite assignments over and done with first!

### ✓ **Work with focus**

Gradually work through the tasks you have to complete for the day. Stay focused and don't get distracted! Once you have completed a task, cross it off the list. Then you always have an overview of what you have already achieved and what you have left to do.

### ✓ **Don't give up too quickly**

You will find some tasks easy and you will have to work harder on others. Don't lose patience! Reward yourself for the work you have done, e.g. by playing a game with siblings and parents, reading a good book or listening to your favourite music.



## Useful provision for learning at home

### ✓ Online Schule Saarland

Online Schule Saarland is a platform set up by the Ministry for Education and Culture and the Landesinstitut für Pädagogik und Medien (federal state institute for education and media) that, as from now, provides all schools in Saarland with the opportunity to contact their pupils. In this way, teachers and pupils can communicate with one another and exchange information and/or materials. Online Schule Saarland can be used legally and in compliance with data protection regulations on all - including private - devices. Online Schule Saarland can be found at: <https://schule-digital.saarland/Startseite/>.

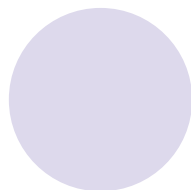
### ✓ Lernwelt Saar

Lernwelt Saar is a learning environment that was developed in Saarland. It helps schools and other educational establishments incorporate digital lesson plans into teaching and learning programmes. A particular feature of this digital learning environment is that it enables schools, teachers and pupils to work together across all areas as part of an unlimited network and so creates synergy effects and makes work a lot easier.

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### ✓ School to go

The “School to go” initiative consolidates free, digital, curriculum-based learning materials for every subject and every age on the platform [www.schooltogo.de](http://www.schooltogo.de). With “School to go”, Prof. Dr. Julia Knopf and Prof. Dr. Oliver Thomas and their team of teaching experts and computer scientists aim to contribute to digital education in a way that help pupils from all types of schools make the best possible use of this time of temporary school closures.

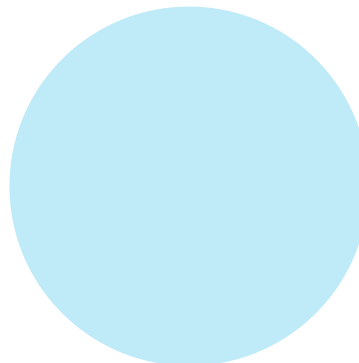
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### ✓ Provision by Landesmedienanstalt (LMS) (federal state institute for media)

In view of the current challenges facing teachers, parents and children, LMS has put together its relevant provision for teaching and learning at home under the Medienkompetenz (media skills) section of its website. More information can be found at: <https://www.lmsaar.de/medienkompetenz/>



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