

Distance/Blended Learning Guide for PYP and MYP Parents

Overview

Distance/Blended learning at FIS is designed to provide continuity, to ensure progress towards established learning targets for all our students. In keeping with Fairgreen's commitment to high quality education, distance/blended learning experiences are developed to be robust and meaningful.

At Fairgreen we have deliberately chosen the term "Distance Learning" to differentiate this method from the approach we had in term 3 of the last academic year, which was termed "eLearning". Distance learning is different because rather than all students being at home, the majority of students are now back on campus. As teachers are delivering learning for students on campus and at home simultaneously, this requires a very different approach, outlined below.

General Guidelines:

When choosing Distance Learning parents should inform the homeroom teacher and copy in info@fairgreen.ae so that administrators can monitor who is out of school and for how long.

Parents will receive a timetable from their homeroom teacher and a document containing the required Zoom links.

Lessons delivered by the homeroom teacher are mostly live on Zoom using a class Zoom link. The teachers will ensure their camera is turned on during their teaching input so that students at home can engage fully. They also have headphones with built in microphones so that students at home can clearly hear them. The proportion of live lessons, compared to asynchronous learning engagements, will vary according to the age of the student.

During any parts of the lesson where students are working independently the teacher will turn the camera off but will still be able to engage with students at home via audio. Students should keep their cameras on.

For parents' convenience all Zoom links for the class will be sent in one document by the homeroom teacher.

Teachers will make online resources/ workbook pages etc. available to Distance Learning students via Seesaw, Google classroom or Google Drive.

Students should submit their work on Seesaw, Google Classroom or Google Drive. MYP students will also be using Managebac for submission of assignments.

Guidelines and Regulations for Using Zoom For Live Streaming

1. The teacher may engage Distant Learning students by having them join a discussion with one student who is physically present on campus. The purpose is to help facilitate discussion, problem solve and bridge home and school learning.
2. Teachers will also establish ways of working (called Essential Agreements) for the blended learning approach with all learners in their homeroom.

Expectations for Distance Learning when the majority of the students are IN CLASS

Expectations of **Parents** for Distance Learning

- A commitment to Distance Learning should be for a substantial period of time (eg 2 weeks) to ensure consistency for your children. It is important for learning that continuity is maintained as much as possible. This does not apply to students who are adhering to quarantine regulations.
- Support your child with Distance Learning whenever you are able.
- Ensure you do not engage with any other children online.
- Please do not try to engage the teacher - they will be focused on providing for the needs of all the students and trying to ensure their lesson can flow as naturally as possible, under very difficult circumstances.
- Do not comment (either verbally, on social media or online) about other children or the lesson.
- Even if you are asked by another person, do not comment on another child's behaviour or learning.
- Do not record the screen - other parents have not given permission for this.
- Support our aim for balance by providing room and time for regular breaks, reflection, and physical activity.

Expectations for **Students** for Distance Learning

- The purpose of this arrangement is for you to learn.
- Make sure you still follow the Fairgreen behaviour expectations.
- Do not record the session, or stream it over social media.
- Be prepared for your lesson according to the timetable issued by your homeroom teacher. You may need to access the online resources before the lesson, so that you are ready for learning with your class.

Expectations for **Teachers** for Distance Learning

- Teachers don't have to be visible throughout but should be able to hear Distance Learning students and engage with them as would occur in a normal classroom situation. Protocols for taking turns etc. should be established in Essential Agreements.
- Teachers may turn off video and audio when appropriate.
- Teachers should mute microphones when speaking individually to other students.
- Ensure distance learning students have access to the materials for the lesson, if this isn't possible (if specialist materials are used) suggest an alternative.
- PYP homeroom teachers will provide a timetable for the class and a document with the necessary Zoom links.
- MYP Homeroom teachers will provide a timetable with the appropriate Zoom links.
- Teachers will not meet students 1:1 or accept unscheduled calls.
- Teachers will not continue with a Zoom call if a student is inappropriately dressed or in an inappropriate environment