



LETTER CIRCULAR

Date: 16th March, 2020 **Ref:** DCLE 04/2020
To: All Schools: State and Non-State
From: Mr Stephen Cachia, Director General
Subject: **Providing educational material directly to students during school closure**

Dear colleagues,

As already announced a Working Group has been set up by the Ministry for Education and Employment in light of the current closure of all schools. The group is made up of representatives from the all three sectors: State, Church and Independent Schools, together with the Malta Union of Teacher. The Group's remit is to explore methods of online teaching during this period as well as to explore the impact of the present situation on the curriculum.

During the first meeting, the Working Group agreed that during these exceptional circumstances, it has full faith in the professionalism, dedication and commitment of educators towards their learners. In fact, members of the Working Group shared various examples where educators have already started sending material online to their students to ensure that they can continue with their studies during this period. The aim of the Working Group is to build on this, and to provide additional support to educators, students and parents in this regard.

The Group agreed on two initiatives:

- **Educational resources available on www.curriculum.gov.mt**

Schools belonging to the three sectors will be using their own IT systems to support online learning. The Ministry for Education and Employment has created a resource page on its curricular website www.curriculum.gov.mt where resources and material for each year group and each subject will be made available and freely accessible to all. The Directorate for Learning and Assessment Programmes will be uploading relevant curriculum material. The Working Group is also inviting educators from all three sectors who would like to upload relevant material to do so in this common repository, as well as on their schools' IT systems.

This page is already available, and material has already started to be posted. The Working Group encourages all educators to contribute in making strong repositories of educational material for students and send an important message to all that by working together we can overcome this challenging time for our students, and indeed, for our country.

Educators who would like to share any of their resources or material are invited to send them by email to dg.dcle.mede@gov.mt

- **Educators providing resources directly to their students**

The Working Group also agreed that educators are being encouraged to use online means to provide educational material and resources to their students. Educators are encouraged to continue using the digital online methods they may be already using in their respective schools. Educators may request support to enable them to do so either through their respective schools or through the dedicated support service the Ministry for Education and Employment has set up through its Directorate for Digital Literacy and Transversal Skills. Further information and support on how to use online platforms to provide educational material directly to students is available on:

<https://digitalliteracy.skola.edu.mt/>

In the case of state schools, educators can use any platform or method they are familiar with or are already using, including Ilearn/Fronter and ClassConnect for tablets. Another suggested platform is MySchool which serves to provide educational material directly to students. A video tutorial on how to use the assignment function on MySchool is available on:

How educators can assign tasks to students:

<https://youtu.be/8Xvvr5oNyE0>

How students submit assignments to educators:

https://youtu.be/NMEA8X2_LPA

All educators needing further support about online teaching and learning, can contact us on:

<http://bit.ly/supportmt>

We can support you in any query related to MySchool, Ilearn/Fronter, One Tablet Per Child, eTwinning and other areas.

Help lines are also open during office hours for:

Early Years and eTwinning	25981568
Primary	25981570
Middle and Secondary	25981569 25981567
Other	25981564 25981565

I would like to take this occasion to sincerely thank all educators who will contribute through the above initiatives to support their students. I would also like to thank the members of the Working Group from the State, Church and Independent Sectors and the Malta Union of Teachers for the excellent collaboration which is taking place.

I wish all of you well during this difficult time. By working together, I am sure that the educational sector will give a strong contribution so that together as one country we overcome this challenge.

Take care and keep well.

Stephen Cachia
Director General Curriculum, Lifelong Learning and Employability



Information and support contact points

To upload material onto www.curriculum.gov.mt

Please write to dg.dcle.mede@gov.mt

For support to use digital technology to provide
educational material directly to your students

Speak directly to your school

or

<https://digitalliteracy.skola.edu.mt/>

Online form to request support

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