

Collaboration Platforms that support Live Video Communication

Tips on Video Conferencing Lessons to support Remote Teaching

Many teachers may have already used video chats over the school closure and others may have only heard about the process. It can present many challenges for parents, teachers and students themselves. Here are a few tips to consider.



What are the options?

Live interactions with colleagues and students can be achieved using many different applications, the most popular include:

- Zoom
- Microsoft Teams (Microsoft Schools)
- Google Meet (GSuite Schools)

A more complete list of collaboration platforms that support live video communication can be found here: <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse/solutions>

GDPR and Safety online and Child Protection

Teachers need to uphold privacy, ensure ethical information governance and respect data protection rights. Appropriate steps must be taken to protect data and teachers should not sign up to apps or software for school business, don't encourage students to engage with apps or software without the prior written approval of the principal. Don't store data related to school business on unapproved devices. (<https://gdpr4schools.ie/>)

Some of the many considerations before proceeding:

1. The school has agreed that this is safe and appropriate responses to identified risks are planned
2. This is in line with the Schools Code of Behaviour for online safety for children and young people
3. Staff have been given information / training about online access including the dangers associated with same.
4. Policy and procedures for managing online safety have been communicated to teachers, parents/ guardians and children & young people.
5. Teachers, parents, children and young people agree to and sign up to your code of behaviour.
6. The school has obtained informed consent from parents/guardians for filming/taking of photographs.
7. The school agrees that your safe management of activities is maintainable
8. Attendance keeping is being maintained.

This list is not exhaustive and principals and teachers should ensure that the practice is in line with their school policies. The following link may help. ([https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla - Child Safeguarding - A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice.pdf](https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/Tusla_-_Child_Safeguarding_-_A_Guide_for_Policy,_Procedure_and_Practice.pdf))

Additional Tips for teachers with students with Special Needs:

There are some simple additional accommodations that teachers should consider to aid students with SEN in their live video remote classroom. These mainly focus on disabling certain features and setting rules.

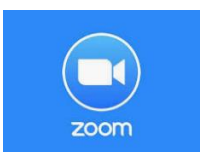
1. Outline expectations and rules for the live video
 - The video lesson is like a school classroom and rules apply
 - Decide on your rules beforehand
 - Plenty of time will be needed to explain these rules to students
 - Write down these rules or provide a visual representation
 - Perhaps the initial live video lessons may be spent addressing and embedding these rules
 - Share and present these rules at the start of every lesson
 - Consider the most appropriate setting/room for the video to take place, from both the teacher's perspective and the students perspective
2. Arrange for small group calls versus large group calls with the entire class of a large class
 - Consider if large groups (30 children) will be overwhelming for some children/students.
 - Perhaps smaller groups are more manageable depending on the class
 - There may be less distraction visually and aurally and less sensory overwhelm
 - **NB: TEACHERS SHOULD NOT CONDUCT ONE-TO ONE VIDEO LESSONS BEFORE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AND WRITTEN AGREEMENT FROM**

PRINCIPAL/BOM/PARENT or Guardian and only if you are agreeable. Perhaps the student's parent or SNA could also be present here during the lesson.

3. Disable in-meeting chats
 - In-meeting chats can be a huge distraction
 - Disabling in-meeting chats can also help focus your lesson
 - In Zoom web portal: click settings, click Chat and private chat (disable). Save changes
4. Use the mute-all participants feature
 - The sensory input can be overwhelming for some students. If you have a large group there can be a lot of noise and interference noise
 - Zoom has a mute-all feature
5. Keep the chats short and to the point
 - Although in-school lessons may usually be long, video lessons do not have to be the same length. Consider 15 minute lessons. Again the groups may also result in less down time which may be challenging for some students
6. Keep students informed of changes beforehand
 - Try and keep to your scheduled or agreed start times. If you need to make changes let the children know as soon as possible
 - If groups are changing let all students know
7. Use visual supports
 - You can use written words, demonstrations and photos
 - You can share content e.g.PDF etc.
 - Virtual backgrounds (see below)

Virtual Backgrounds

Virtual Backgrounds enable the teacher to place a photo of the physical classroom or indeed of the theme/idea etc. being discussed as a background to the presenter (and sometimes students)



Zoom:

1. Start by downloading your favorite image to your computer or mobile device. Just click "download" in the bottom left corner of the image.
2. Next go to your Zoom app (you'll need to download the app to access backgrounds) and click on the arrow to the right of your video camera icon in the bottom of the screen.
3. From here select, "choose virtual background" to upload your unique photo.



Google Meets:

1. Start by downloading your favorite image to your computer or mobile device. Just click "download" in the bottom left corner of the image.
2. Go in to your Google Admin console.
3. From the Admin console Home page, go to Devices.
4. In the Devices panel, click Settings.
5. Click Meet settings.
6. To apply the setting to everyone, leave the top organizational unit selected.
7. Click Wallpapers.
8. Upload up to 10 files that you want to use for your devices.
9. Click Save.



Microsoft Teams

Team:

1. Start by downloading your favorite image to your computer or mobile device. Just click "download" in the bottom left corner of the image.
 - If you're using a PC copy the image you want to use to this folder on your computer:
%AppData%\Microsoft\Teams\Backgrounds\Uploads
 - If you're using a Mac copy the images to this folder on your computer:
/users/<username>/Library/Application Support/Microsoft/Teams/Backgrounds/Uploads
2. Once you start a Teams meeting, click the "... " in the menu bar and select "Show background effects" and your image should be there

Idea sourced from: <https://hub.united.com/upgrade-zoom-video-backgrounds--2645610091.html>

Activities

Perhaps placing the focus on socialisation, connection, communication and emotional wellbeing rather than teaching may help.

Scavenger Hunt Challenges

- Many teachers are giving scavenger hunt type challenges.
- Senses scavenger hunt e.g. find something that smells good or that is quiet
- Book scavenger hunt e.g. find an animal in a book
- Inventor scavenger hunt e.g. find something you can roll
- Rainbow scavenger hunt e.g. name an animal that is yellow

- Spring scavenger hunt e.g. find a spider web
- Backyard scavenger hunt e.g. find 3 different colour rocks
- Indoor scavenger hunt e.g. find a key
- A maths scavenger hunt e.g. find 2 socks and a crayon, how many items do you have now?

Other Activities

Some teachers have found activities successful, including:

- Show and tell activities
- Sharing something that makes you happy
- Scavenger hunt – set timer for 3 minutes and find something blue?
- Virtual field trip with a related brain pop
- Kahoot / quizlet live/ GimKit.com
- Would you rather? / What's in the Bag? Games with yes / no answers only

Some ideas originally sourced from:

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<https://hub.united.com/upgrade-zoom-video-backgrounds--2645610091.html>

https://www.andnextcomesl.com/2020/04/zoom-tips-for-teachers-of-autistic-children.html?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Tips+for+supporting+autistic+kids+with+video+calls+++more!&utm_campaign=Friday+newsletter:+April+24/2020&m=1

<https://www.youtube.com/user/joedale100>