

Remote Learning

Education

What the large-scale natural experiment of school closures showed.

Remote learning delivers teaching at a distance, synchronously or asynchronously. The 2020 closures produced unusually large evidence on what it costs and what mitigates it.

GAP EFFECT
widened

KEY VARIABLE
teacher contact

- Average learning loss was substantial and measurable.
- Losses were larger for disadvantaged pupils.
- Access to a device and quiet space varied widely.
- Live teaching and recorded lessons performed similarly.
- Contact with a teacher predicted engagement.
- Peer interaction was the hardest element to reproduce.

LOOK FOR IT

The medium mattered less than whether pupils received explanation, feedback and a reason to turn up.

Educational reference. Estimates vary widely by country and measure, but the direction, and the unequal distribution, are consistent.