

# The use of technology in education

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Technology can be used in many ways. It can support both teaching and learning. Technology infuses classrooms with digital learning tools, such as computers and handheld devices. It supports learning 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It also builds 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and increases student engagement.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, schools are having lessons using technology. Students can participate in learning using a variety of different methods such as Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom and Zoom. For those who do have access to the right technology, there is evidence that learning online can be more effective. Some research shows that on average, students retain 25-60% more material when learning online compared to only 8-10% in a classroom. This is mostly due to the students being able to learn faster online. E-learning requires 40-60% less time to learn than in a traditional classroom setting because students can learn at their own pace, go back and re-read, skip or accelerate through concepts as they choose.

Technology in education can also have some drawbacks. It can be harder for students to grasp concepts being taught online because they can't ask a teacher. Online learning can also cause social isolation. Online learning also requires students to have high speed internet at their home, which can cause complications if it is not available. A student's Wi-Fi could shut down unexpectedly and not allow them to turn in an assignment on time, or it might not allow them to attend class and miss lessons. Some students may not even have a suitable computer or laptop at home.

While technology allows us to learn from home during the pandemic and makes traditional learning more interesting in the classroom, it does not work for every learning style and household. Hopefully in future all students will be able to benefit from the advantages of technological advances in the classroom for a better school and learning experience.