

Tips for Revising – A PARENTS GUIDE.

Supporting your child in setting themselves up for revision.

Talk to your child about how you can support them and what they would find helpful. Helping them create or find a dedicated space to revise in is vital. It should be uncluttered and quiet, away from distractions like TV and games consoles.

The simplest things often get in the way of starting revision - weeks can be lost while pupils 'are going to get some folders soon...'. Get around these by simply providing the files, dividers, wall-charts etc. your child will need for the revision period.

Encourage your child to empty their bag and file handouts and information from lessons at the end of each day. They won't seem important until they need them, at which point they are likely to be lost under a mountain of random papers.

Support your child in choosing one good revision guide for each subject – this is the best investment you will make. There are lots around so check with the teacher yourself if you are not sure which is best.

Help your child to plan their revision timetable. It will take an investment of your time (probably several hours), but it is the single thing that will make the biggest difference to the effectiveness of the revision, and therefore the outcome. Children vary in the amount of support they need at each stage of the process.

Supporting your child in doing the revision.

Support your child in sticking to their revision plan and keeping to the start and finishing times they have agreed. Praise them when they do it, and if necessary agree a reward structure. Don't make treats dependent on certain results - it will only add to their feelings of disappointment if they don't do as well as expected.

Quietly top-up the workbox with pens, rulers, paper, pads etc. Don't get wound up about lost items if you can help it - motivation is hard enough to find for revision, and arguments about a 50p pen just aren't worth it.

Provide favourite snacks and water for revision periods.
Be flexible - if they want to go out on a revision night, agree when they will make the time up.

Be sensitive to the pressure your child is feeling - let them know that if they are really not up to it on odd days, it isn't the end of the world - let it go when it really matters to them, and remind them of all the good work they have done, and will continue to do. It's the big picture that will count in the end.

Keep up with regular 'check-ins' and don't nag in between times. Show an interest in how the revision is going, talk through any difficulties and be prepared to help them reschedule their planning as necessary.

Keep things in perspective - your child may not be doing things the way you would do them, or as often as you would like, but they are doing the best they can in the way that works for them at the stage they are at.

Further information

Some suggested websites to have a look at

<https://revisionworld.com/gcse>

The GCSE revision section of Revision World includes free GCSE revision resources and past papers for all major GCSE subjects

Visit www.positivelymad.co.uk for some excellent and fun ideas for remembering information.

<https://s-cool.co.uk>

The free revision website for students studying GCSE and A-levels. S-cool provides revision guides, question banks, revision timetable and more.