

Possibilities and Challenges in Distance Teaching

Distance teaching offers a variety of opportunities for a pupil needing instructions on a particular subject or for a pupil with special challenges e.g. in his/her learning skills. Via a distance teaching the teacher can provide instructions to the pupil and give guidance and support tailored to the pupil's learning and knowledge skills.

Possibilities:

- Teaching and supporting the pupil is not tied to a specific place, but different options are possible via distance teaching.
- Distance teaching is flexible – the lessons can be given at the school or at the pupil's home, depending on the pupil's needs and his/her possibility to attend school.
- If the pupil is not able to attend school due to a long-term illness or the pupil has physical challenges to attend school, distance teaching brings the learning environment to the pupil's home.
- Most school subjects can be taught and learned using distance teaching.
- In distance teaching it is possible to focus on specific issues, such as certain aspects of the pupil's learning and knowledge skills and/or linguistic challenges.
- Distance teaching supports the pupil in developing his/her own knowledge and skills and helps him/her to achieve the set learning goals.
- Distance teaching can be done individually (one to one –teaching) or in a group. The pupil participates in the lesson and the class activities online and he/she is able to interact with the teacher and his/her peers during the lesson.
- The pupil, the teacher as well as the other school staff learn the necessary ICT-skills quickly based on the instructions and guidance.

Challenges:

- ICT – problems with the technical devices and/or the internet connection
- The teacher, the school staff, the assistant and/or the pupil may have insufficient ICT-skills.
- The teacher, the school staff and/or the assistant may have insufficient knowledge about distance teaching and its goals
- Pupil's motivations toward learning.
- Supporting the pupils's learning may remain incomplete in distance teaching.
- Maintaining the pupil's learning motivation can be difficult with distance teaching.
- Cooperation with the distance teacher and the pupil's school as well as other adults and the guardians of the pupil may be challenging.