

Dotmocracy to support students to engage with learning in the physically distanced classroom and to engage with learning from home



In this strategy students work together through group vote to make informed decisions, to prioritise and reach consensus. However, it is possible for students to vote individually if groups are not possible. Dotmocracy gives every student an equal chance to have their opinion recorded even in the largest of groups.

Dotmocracy in the physically distanced classroom

- Ask a key question that the students will answer through a voting process.
- Divide the students into socially distanced groups of 3 to 4 and ask them to brainstorm and deliberate potential answers. Should groups not be possible, students can do this in pairs or individually.
- Students note their answers as statements, either in their copies or on a device.
- Individuals/pairs/groups orally share and justify their statements with the class. Here, the teacher may want to display the answers, or students can also note on an online platform that can be shared on the whiteboard.
- Time is given to consider all the answers.
- The teacher can then read down through the statements, inviting students to vote by standing up, or by a show of hands. Votes can be counted and noted beside each statement.
- A spread voting pattern may require the dot vote process to be repeated to gain consensus.

Dotmocracy while engaging with learning from home

A homework exercise could be a written reflection on the student's learning as a result of the vote.

Within the remote classroom, Dotmocracy/a voting strategy can be carried out online in several ways:

- Padlet - the teacher can send students a Padlet call with statements, and they can respond by using the like button to vote. Equally, students could design their own Padlet and share with others if they have Padlet accounts.
- Mentimeter - similarly to above, the teacher or students could design a Menti that can be shared with others and voted on.
- Polls can be conducted within Zoom or Teams online live chat spaces, enabling results to be seen by all participants in real time.

*** Dotmocracy can be used to support Teaching, Learning and Assessment in all subjects as well as the Level 1 Learning Programmes (L1LPs) and the Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs)**

Key Skills

- Managing information and thinking
- Managing myself
- Communicating
- Being literate
- Being numerate
- Being creative

Assessment

This strategy:

- elicits evidence of learning
- can be used to inform the next steps in the learning process

Inclusion of all Learners

- All students have a voice and get to vote. All opinions/votes matter.
- Can focus on key learning or be used as extension activities for pre or post lesson.
- Students can create their own statements or design their own Padlet/Menti

Resources

- Students themselves
- One to one digital devices with internet connection



Further Information

https://jct.ie/wholeschool/classroom_strategies

[Dotmocracy in Action](#)

[L1LPs/L2LPs](#)

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