

Remote education provision: information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents or carers about what to expect from remote education where national or local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home.

For details of what to expect where individual pupils are self-isolating, please see the final section of this page.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

A pupil's first day or two of being educated remotely might look different from our standard approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a longer period of remote teaching.

What should my child expect from immediate remote education in the first day or two of pupils being sent home?

Students are expected to use their school Google Classroom account to access their online learning and join their live hosted lesson using Google Meet. Their Google Classroom will contain information and guidance on how to access their learning.

Following the first few days of remote education, will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?

All students will follow the planned curriculum as though they were in school.

Remote teaching and study time each day

How long can I expect work set by the school to take my child each day?

We expect that remote education (including remote teaching and independent work) will take pupils broadly the following number of hours each day:

Key Stage 3, 4 and 5.	KS3 students are expected to attend all timetabled, subject specific lessons each day. Homework is not set for KS3 students. KS4 students are expected to attend all timetabled, subject specific lessons each day. Homework is set for KS4 students following an exam course.
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	KS5 students are expected to attend all timetabled, subject specific lessons each day. Each lesson is 50 mins long. Homework is set for KS5 students following an exam course.
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Accessing remote education

Using their school account students should access their online learning by logging in to Google Classroom using their school account. Live online lessons will be hosted using Google Meet. From within this platform students may be directed to additional resources or learning platforms.

If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will you support them to access remote education?

We recognise that some pupils may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education:

- Parents/carers may contact the school for the loan of a laptop if the student does not have access to one at home.
- Parents/Carers may contact the school for support with either increasing their internet bandwidth at home, the provision of a wi-fi dongle or by issuing a data sim card.
- If printed materials are required then these can be sent by arrangement, please contact the school.
- Students can pre arrange socially distanced drop offs of work at the school reception.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils remotely:

Remote learning is available to all students. Teaching is delivered mainly through live online lessons, but these are appropriately supplemented with additional activities or online services. It is the intention of the school that students are able to continue to follow the planned curriculum.

Lessons follow the planned school timetable. Where a student needs additional support they may be asked to attend school to ensure their progress is not unduly hindered.

The school actively avoids the setting of long term project work where progress is difficult to monitor and gaps in learning can widen.

Lessons may contain a range of approaches such as:

- Live online teaching
- Recorded lessons
- Printed workbooks and worksheets
- Textbooks, physical and digital copies
- The use of commercial websites such as Seneca, Hegarty Maths and Doodle

Engagement and feedback

What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

Distance learning presents incredible challenges and opportunities for teachers, parents and students. Everyone's circumstances are different. More focused and independent learning from home is easier for some students and families than others.

Below are 10 principles that may be helpful when supporting your child at home.

1. Establish routines and expectations
2. Choose a good place to learn
3. Stay in touch
4. Help students 'own' their learning
5. Begin and end the day by checking-in
6. Establish times for quiet and reflection
7. Encourage physical activity and exercise
8. Manage stress and make the most of an unusual situation
9. Monitor time on-screen and online
10. Connect safely with friends, and be kind

There are a number of websites that can provide detailed advice and guidance, here are two examples.

- <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/a-parents-tips-for-home-schooling/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-secondary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

How will you check whether my child is engaging with their work and how will I be informed if there are concerns?

Teachers will take an attendance register at the start of each lesson. The teacher will initially contact the parent/carer if the student is absent without a reason. Further absence will be referred to their Tutor who may in turn contact the parent/carer.

Parents/carers will be contacted if the school has a concern about either attendance or engagement with activities and submission of work.

Where the pastoral team recognises that a student requires additional support regular contact will be arranged.

How will you assess my child's work and progress?

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are also valid and effective methods, amongst many others. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

Feedback is provided to students in a number of ways and will vary in depth and frequency depending upon the work set. Students will receive at least one of the following forms of feedback each week from each subject.

- Live online feedback during the lesson.
- Summary of progress to the class in subsequent lessons
- Feedback via Google Classroom on work that has been set
- Built in feedback from additional online learning platforms such as Seneca and Doodle

Additional support for pupils with particular needs

How will you work with me to help my child who needs additional support from adults at home to access remote education?

We recognise that some pupils, for example some pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access remote education without support from adults at home. We acknowledge the difficulties this may place on families, and we will work with parents and carers to support those pupils in the following ways:

Where there is a need the school will work with families to either adapt as appropriate the online learning or invite students into school for their education. This is especially relevant for SEND students and those who have been identified as especially vulnerable. Support may be provided in the form of a modified curriculum or in the use of technology.

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate but the majority of their peer group remains in school, how remote education is provided will likely differ from the approach for whole groups. This is due to the challenges of teaching pupils both at home and in school.

If my child is not in school because they are self-isolating, how will their remote education differ from the approaches described above?

Students in KS4 and KS5 who are studying for exams, but are self isolating at home, will access their work using Google Classroom in the same manner as described above. They will have the option to join the class via Google Meet. However, please be aware that the experience will not be the same as the class teacher will also be teaching the students in school at the same time.

Students in KS3 will receive written guidance on their first day of absence instructing them to access their work using specific Google Classrooms. This work is designed to complement and support the planned curriculum. If the absence goes beyond the recommended period of isolation then a member of the pastoral team will make contact with the family to agree alternative arrangements.

These arrangements will be kept under review.