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.

Will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?

Wherever possible and appropriate we teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school.

The timetable remains the same remotely as it is during the normal school day with 5 lots of 1 hour lessons.

However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, in core PE pupils will be given a link to physical fitness experience which we would aim for them to take part in during the scheduled lesson time. In Design Technology and the Arts, pupils will be given an extended project lasting several weeks which they must complete and submit.

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 and 4	5 hours plus Home Learning Tasks

Accessing remote education

How will my child access any online remote education you are providing?

Our remote education is provided through Microsoft Teams, which can be accessed on most platforms including PCs, laptops, tablets and phones.

Pupils have previously used Microsoft Teams for Home Learning Tasks, so this is a familiar way for them to access the work.

Live lessons are joined though the "Calendar" tab within the Microsoft Teams app. All pupils are automatically linked to the correct classes, so the correct lessons will always show up for them.

Pupils simply need to click "Join" on the lesson, and their teacher will invite them into the lesson.

When it is not a Live lesson, resources are provided in the Posts section of the class. Pupils can access this through the "Teams" tab within the Microsoft Teams app, then clicking on the correct class (for example, "8 Sci Group 1"). There may also be assignments set as part of online lessons or as extra "Home Learning" tasks. The tasks and feedback on them can be accessed through the "Assignments" tab within the Microsoft Teams app.

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:

Through our online survey we have identified families who need access to laptops. These have been provided. Should circumstances change and you find you need access to a laptop please email your child's year leader or tutor.

If the issue is broadband width, we are able to provide resources in paper form or via email. Again, please email your child's year leader or tutor.

Places in school have been allocated for pupils who are unable to access resources at home. Should you wish to access this then please email your child's year leader or the school office.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Some examples of remote teaching approaches:

Live teaching (online lessons) – the majority of lessons will take this format

Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences

Long-term project work and/or internet research activities – specifically Design Technology and Arts.

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?

Pupils are expected to follow the normal school timetable and working day pattern.

The majority of lessons will be Live lessons and pupils will need to register attendance during these sessions either through the chat bar facility or through answering the register

Work should be submitted regularly and in line with teacher guidance

Parents can support by ensuring their child is ready to engage with learning at 8.55am and by ensuring a quiet area for their child to engage in lessons.

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

Daily registers are kept by teachers for on line sessions. These are routinely checked by the Year Leaders and Senior Leadership Team and contact home is made if there is a concern with engagement. Monitoring is ongoing daily.

If we are concerned with regard engagement you will receive an email or call from the child's Year Leader

Tutors have weekly online check ins with pupils in which they discuss online engagement with work

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 and assessment is different within each subject but is likely to include a combination of the following:

- Q&A within the lesson, both verbal & written in the chat bar of meetings page, targeted questioning & general
- Whole-class feedback, delivered in a dedicated lesson whole or part, record of feedback kept in class post and/or notebook
- Verbal feedback audio file embed within written work on class notebook
- Modelling responses
- Live marking
- Written feedback Online Assessment will follow the same pattern as it does for school-based teaching criteria and marks, where appropriate tasks are set, to support their learning journeys.

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:

Children with SEND have a place allocated in school for support with learning with LSAs available to support learning in school

Where this is not safe to do so, SEND families will receive a twice weekly call from a member of the SEND team to support with learning

Teachers have been asked to differentiate work for SEND pupils and training has been provided on this

We recognize there is a cognitive overload for our SEND pupils when working on line. We therefore encourage parents to feel confident to not engage with some lessons on line in order to concentrate on core subjects

To lighten cognitive load and allow for difficulties with cognitive functions, materials posted online prior to lessons so SEND pupils can pre read, print then annotate and go back to if needed after lessons

Pupils and parents encouraged to contact SEND team if concerns/issues

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?

When a child is self isolating but the rest of the year group are in school, it is not possible to deliver Live lessons.

Instead, the Learning objective for the lesson and the resources needed for the lesson will be placed in the Teams folder. This is always posted prior to the lesson that day.

We encourage parents and pupils to follow the timetable as normal when self isolating, completing the work at the allocated time for that lesson.

On return to school the work will be checked by teachers and stamps awarded for engagement as per the normal school routine.