

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?

During the first few days we will set work on our online learning platform, Frog. The lessons will be set every day before 9 am and will consist of the same timetable that the student would have been taking in school.

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?

We aim to cover the same timetable online as would happen in school, including PE lessons. All lessons will be on our online platform and Teams lessons will start as soon as possible.

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	We will set work that follows their normal school timetable. This is 5 one hour lessons per day.
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Accessing remote education

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

We use an online platform, Frog, where the work for each lesson can be found. It will contain any files that the student will need for the lesson. Alongside Frog we will use online video lessons using Microsoft Teams.

Students can upload work to Frog or email work to the teacher, where this is required.

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:

The school has been working hard to make sure that all our students have access to online education at home and we encourage any families that do not have this access to contact the school to see if we can provide the resources.

The government has provided us with a large number of laptops for families who need support accessing digital content. The school has invested in netbooks from its own resources to supplement this allocation. We have managed to fulfil all the requests for laptops from families with students at the school.

The government has provided us with a limited supply of routers, which can provide free internet access for families who do not have Wi-Fi at home. The school is able to refer families who are using paid for data connections by phone to the Department for Education who have negotiated increased data contracts at no extra cost. The school has a number of pre-loaded SIM cards with 30GB of data that can be given to families struggling with data costs, which were provided free by a mobile phone provider.

Where it proves problematic for students to access work online they can ask the school to post the work out to students. This scenario should be unlikely as we have managed our resources to meet demand for laptops. Students who are unable to upload work can bring it into school and leave it on the table in reception with a label stating to which member of staff the work is meant to be delivered.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We the following approach to teach pupils remotely:

We aim to offer a full timetable of lessons delivering the content that would be taught as part of the curriculum.

Lessons start at 9am, 10am, 11am, 1pm and 2pm.

The content of the lesson, including any instructions and files will be available on Frog from 9am. This is the work that has been set for the lesson and it is what the student should attempt.

At the start of each lesson there will be a corresponding live online lesson on Teams. The online lesson will last for 40 minutes of the lesson. The basic structure is that the teacher will explain the content and then students will be able to get on with their work. Once the student is working they can ask the teacher for help, either using a microphone or through the written chat function.

After 40 minutes the teacher will take the register and then the online lesson will end and students will continue to work for the remaining 20 minutes independently.

Staff are having to supervise classes at school as well as teach live lessons. Where a member of staff that would ordinarily be teaching a class is unable to run a live online lesson then the teacher will inform the students before the lesson, but the work for the lesson will still be available on Frog.

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?

It is important that students keep in a similar learning routine as they would in school. They should be up and dressed in plenty of time to be ready for the first lesson at 9am.

They should make sure that they are punctual for the start of each live online lesson and that they behave in the same way as they would in a lesson in school.

There should be a teacher available for each online lesson so they should be able to offer the support for learning that each student needs. It is more difficult for this to be as effective as it would be face to face in a classroom, but we will try our best.

Parents and carers should only need to make sure that their child is in the correct routine and make sure that they are ready for each school day.

School is still open so you can still get support with pastoral and welfare issues. Call or email your child's House Learning Leader or form tutor. The form tutor should be calling each family in their tutor group at least once every fortnight to check that there are no issues, and if there are to help where they can.

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

Students have to indicate when they have completed each lesson using Frog. We can see which students have been engaging and which students have not. Where a child is not engaging the family will receive a call from the form tutor or another member of staff.

A register is taken during every live online lesson, which are then submitted to the office so that staff can monitor which students are engaging and which are not. Again, you will be contacted if your child is missing lessons or opting out before the end of the lesson on a regular basis.

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:

Where teachers want to check work the student will be asked to upload the work using Frog. If this is a problem the student can email the work to their teacher directly.

When work is marked the teacher's comments and feedback will be found on Frog.

In some cases teacher may be commenting on work they can see during lessons, or where students are emailing in work.

Work will be formally assessed every 3 weeks in line with school policy. The priority is given to students in exam classes, which would be years 11 and 13 and then to those in GCSE classes, which would be years 9, 10 and 12. The remaining years, 7 and 8 will be assessed towards the end of the 3 week cycle.

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:

We strongly recommend that students with EHCP plans attend school during any lockdown.

Students with EHCP plans should be contacted by a member of the SEND team at least once per fortnight in addition to any form tutor contact with the family.

Staff are available at school so parents or carers can contact the SEND team for advice and support.

Where students are at school and they are usually part of a nurture group for their lessons then these groups are continuing within these bubbles at school during lockdown. There will be a teaching assistant as well as a teacher in these lessons.

In many cases the teaching assistant, with these groups, will be online with the classes to help support during live online lessons.

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?

If school is open to all students, but an individual, or small bubble, has to self-isolate, the school will still provide online work.

When the teacher takes the register for the class at the start of the lesson, the teacher will be able to see which students in the class are self-isolating.

The teacher will then put the work for that lesson on Frog as soon as is practical for those students who are self-isolating.

The work may not be in as much detail as during a lockdown and there will not be any live online lessons.

Staff can still be contacted by email if any further support with the work is needed.