

St. Bede's Catholic School & Sixth Form College

Remote Education: Information for Parents

Updated 9th February 2021

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.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

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

The school will endeavour to ensure that remote education provision will be made available immediately and we will endeavour to:

- deliver live subject lessons to students in all Key Stages following the normal school timetable via Microsoft Teams;
- remind students of their logon details to any third-party website where necessary i.e. MyMaths, ActiveLearn, Kerboodle etc;
- loan students a school device, if for whatever reason access to a device is a barrier to remote learning. Ideally students should have access to a device with a keyboard and not just a mobile phone, in order to engage fully in all lessons;
- ensure that all children understand how to access the school's online learning platform. This information has been disseminated both at school via face-to-face training, videos and help guides have also been produced. The school has created an Office365 section on our website with further guidance where necessary;
- provide all parents and students with a copy via email of our Acceptable Usage Policy for Remote 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?

Our school will endeavour to:

- teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school;
- provide a curriculum sequence that allows access to high-quality online and offline resources and teaching videos that are linked to the school's curriculum expectations;
- give access to high quality remote education resources;
- work with families to deliver a broad and ambitious curriculum;
- set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects;
- teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject;
- ensure all resources and lessons provided, link to current curriculum objectives within their classroom;
- ensure work for each day is uploaded at least one week before;
- provide paper-based resources for all subjects, if the child has no internet access at home.

If one or more class bubbles need to close, or if the whole school closes or goes into local/national lockdown, the school will fulfil all of the above criteria and in addition:

- students at home will be live-streamed the same lesson as those students in the classroom.

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 Stages 3, 4 and 5	3 x 90 minute lessons, plus additional time required for home learning
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Accessing remote education

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

- Staff will ensure that all children understand how to access the school's online learning platform.
- School will provide login details for Microsoft Teams in the event that a student has forgotten these details.

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

It is expected that children will access all of our remote learning through our online provision. If parents/carers do not have access to an electronic device, we expect them to inform school and we will endeavour to provide a suitable device.

We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education:

- We have a limited number of devices available to loan to families who do not have access to a suitable device. For further information please contact the main school office.
- We have a limited number of dongles available for educational data which can be loaned to families.
- Families have also been made aware of the possibility of the school requesting mobile data networks to increase mobile data free of charge.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- live teaching (online lessons)
- recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- printed paper packs within their year group retrieval file
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences – e.g. MyMaths, Seneca.

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?

Parents should endeavour to support children's remote learning by creating a positive environment for their child to learn, for example:

- distinguish between weekdays and weekends, to separate school life and home life;
- at the end of the day, have a clear cut-off to signal school time is over;
- create and stick to a routine;
- provide the correct equipment in order for your child to complete the work given;
- designate a working space if possible;
- make time for exercise and breaks throughout the day to keep your child active;
- reinforce the importance of children staying safe online;
- be aware of what your child is being asked to do, including sites they will be asked to use and the school staff your child will interact with;
- emphasise the importance of a safe online environment. Set age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices and use internet filters to block malicious websites - these are usually free, but often need to be turned on;
- encourage your child to work to the best of their ability and praise their efforts;
- encourage and support children to access remote education daily;
- encourage and support children to keep up with the work set by school each day;
- contact school if they are experiencing problems with accessing remote education;
- support children, where possible, to consider feedback on work submitted.

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

If an individual child or a small number of children need to isolate, the school will endeavour to:

- check children's engagement with remote education daily – all teachers take a register at the start of each online lesson;
- Student Support will contact parents where there is a concern regarding engagement with remote education.

If one or more class bubbles need to close, or if the whole school closes or goes into local/national lockdown, the school will fulfil all of the above criteria and in addition:

- respond to parents' messages (that confirm to the messaging protocol) within school working hours 8:00am – 4:30pm;
- contact parents/carers who do not have access to the internet (or mobile data);
- contact parents/carers following no work submission or contact through messaging;
- provide regular welfare calls;
- operate timely reward systems to celebrate home achievements.

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

If an individual child or a small number of children need to isolate, the school will endeavour to:

- provide individual feedback of work submitted via the online learning platform;
- provide access to digital learning platforms that provide automatic bespoke feedback – MyMaths, Seneca.

- assess children's understanding of remote education / key knowledge and skills covered on return to school.

For those without internet access:

- pupils will submit work to their teachers and receive feedback, following the period of isolation.

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:

- our SENCo can be contacted by individual families to discuss a bespoke approach for your child;
- your child's teachers /LSAs will continue to make adjustments within remote lessons and can be contacted via the SENCo to discuss this further;
- your child / family will receive regular contact from a member of student support where appropriate.

Further Support Available

If parents have any questions or concerns about remote learning, they should contact the following:

Issues in setting work – contact the relevant class teacher via email to the school office

Issues with behaviour – contact Student Support via email to the school office

Issues with IT – contact the schools IT Helpdesk – ithelpdesk@stb.bwcet.com

Concerns about data protection – talk to the Data Protection Officer, Mr I Merrington

Concerns about safeguarding – talk to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs G Kilburn, Mrs J Bradley or Mr I Merrington.

While we will endeavour to implement the steps outlined above, there may be circumstances beyond the control of the school that could impact on provision. For example, levels of staff absence or temporary technical difficulties.