



Parental Guide to Remote Learning

Introduction

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?

National lockdown - remote education provision will be available through Teams from the first day and temporary work packs will be handed out for pupils to complete independently, if they do not have internet access or a suitable device.

Entire cohort (bubble or zone) closure – remote education provision will be available through Teams from the first day and temporary work packs will be handed out for pupils to complete independently, if they do not have internet access or a suitable device.

Particular group within a cohort closure - blended learning will be available through Teams from the first day and temporary work packs will be handed out for pupils to complete independently, if they do not have internet access or a suitable device.

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?

National Lockdown – A Lockdown Timetable which will be sent out to all pupils. All curriculum subjects will be taught to pupils through Microsoft Teams. Pastoral time will also be included.

Whole cohort or particular pupils within a cohort – This will follow the normal school timetable. All subjects will be taught through Microsoft Teams which may use a blended learning approach if needed.

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 2/3	5 hours a day
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Accessing remote education

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

Pupils will access Microsoft Teams for online remote education. Pupils will also have access to Sumdog, MyMaths, Education City and Renaissance Learning.

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:

- subject to availability we will issue or lend a device to pupils. Priority will be given to those who have been identified through our device questionnaire (Sept 2020) as having no device or a shared device. To find out more information email enquires@birchensale.worcs.sch.uk or phone 01527 68430
- subject to availability we will issue or lend devices that enable an internet connection (for example, routers or dongles) To find out more information email enquires@birchensale.worcs.sch.uk or phone 01527 68430
- pupils can access any printed materials through temporary work packs that broadly follow the subject curriculum
- pupils can submit work to their teachers if they do not have online access by returning the completed work pack, when collecting a new one

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- live teaching (online lessons through Microsoft Teams)
- recorded teaching
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. temporary work packs or workbooks)
- textbooks and reading books pupils have at home
- 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 set by teachers

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 attend all virtual lessons throughout the day. The school absence policy should be followed if pupils are ill and unable to participate in the lessons
- parents/carers are expected to support pupils by helping them settle into a routine that suits their family

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

- Registers are taken in the virtual lessons and engagement is checked on a weekly basis
- where engagement is a concern, Form Teachers or the Pastoral Leads will contact parents/carers by email or phone

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

Under normal circumstances, not all pieces of work are formally assessed by teachers and this will continue to be the case. Given the nature of the tasks, the type of feedback teachers can provide may not have the same format as marking an exercise book. 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:

- Verbal feedback during online lessons
- Whole class feedback rather than feedback on individual pieces of work
- Assignments through Teams
- Quizzes through digital platforms
- House points and Commendations awarded
- Written feedback through email
- Feedback through the chat/comment facility on Teams

The frequency and type of feedback will vary depending on the subject and activity.

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:

- Pupils are taught in groups linked to their ability and resources will be differentiated by teachers for their group
- Pastoral support is available through form teachers and the Pastoral Leads
- The SENDCo and Learning Mentor are available to support families

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?

- Particular group within a cohort closure - blended learning will be available through Teams from the first day and temporary work packs will be handed out for pupils to complete independently, if they do not have internet access or a suitable device
- Individual self-isolating - We will offer a blended learning approach wherever possible. Teachers may set tasks linked to the curriculum subject being taught. Temporary work packs may be handed out for pupils to complete independently, if they do not have internet access or a suitable device