

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?

Where whole classes / year groups have been asked to self isolate then all lessons will be accessed via Microsoft Teams as live lessons following the normal timetable.

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 teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school for the vast majority of lessons. However, we may need to make some adaptations in practical subjects such as Technology and PE to account for the specialist equipment required. These adaptations may be adapting the curriculum to home circumstances e.g. workout sessions done at home, instead of using the school gym. They may be altering the sequence of the curriculum so theory based lessons are taught at home and practical activities held back for when students return to school e.g. Textiles lessons using sewing machines.

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	Students will receive 5 hours of online live teaching each day
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Accessing remote education

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

We will use MS Teams as the standard format for all lessons. Teachers may also use other software to augment Teams e.g. Whiteboard.fl as and when appropriate

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:

All parents / carers were surveyed about their needs for ICT equipment in the Autumn Term. Laptops, dongles and wifi support have been provided to ensure all students can access the online provision. ISAs have taken devices etc to student's houses and ICT support has been available to help students connect securely. Parents / carers can contact via the academy main office: office@whitburncofeacademy.org or by calling 529 3712. They can also use the 'contact us' facility on the website. ISAs are in regular contact with those students who may have experienced difficulty with connecting to online learning.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

In this section, please list the range of approaches you use to teach pupils remotely.

All lessons are taught 'live'. This will typically involve a live introductory session (greeting students, taking register and checking on welfare) followed by review of previous learning and explanation of new learning with checking for understanding as in a normal classroom. Part of this may be done via pre-recorded video / powerpoint etc. Students will then typically have an opportunity to consolidate and extend that learning with teachers available via the Teams chat to support and monitor using class notebooks. A review session will then be held to consolidate learning and address any misconceptions.

This is a 'typical' lesson. Teachers may chose alternative styles depending upon the needs of the curriculum and learners

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?

We expect all students to be online and participating in all lessons.

We ask that parents support by establishing and maintaining good routines at home, plenty of fresh air and non screen time each day

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

A register is taken each lesson; subject staff, Heads of Subject and ISAs / HoLs, follow up engagement / non-attendance concerns.

Students will receive messages from class teachers to complete work. Non-attendance at live lessons will be followed up by ISAs via a phone call to parents / carers

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:

Students will receive quick feedback for staff in a number of ways:

- Orally via Q/A in live lessons
- Online in Teams calls 'chat' and individual 'chat' with students
- Via Quizzes set as part of lessons in Microsoft Forms
- Other online methods eg Seneca learn / carousel learn

Longer feedback will be made via 'Assignments' in Teams where more detailed steps for improvement will be provided.

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:

- LSA support is provided for vulnerable and Key worker students who are attending school in person
- SENCO has provided advice for teachers on specific strategies to help support students with a range of SEN with their remote learning
- SENCO and ISAs are in regular contact with parents / carers and students with SEN to help provide bespoke support and guide to additional resources

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 Sixth Form will be called via Teams to attend the lesson live with their peers. They will receive the same curriculum in real time.

Where larger classes of younger pupils require more classroom management then students individually self isolating will be given the same classwork as their peers with supporting materials via Teams. They will not be expected to join 'live' calls