

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 if 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?

Once home, pupils are expected to log on to Google Classroom and follow their timetable as normal. Teachers will have set work online that replicates what is being taught in lessons that day.

If there are any instances where a teacher has not set work for that day, please ask your son/daughter to log on to Hegarty Maths or Seneca and complete the online tasks that their core teachers have set.

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 wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example in practical subjects such as Food, Art, DT and PE pupils may be set more theory based work due to not being in a workshop/environment with the correct equipment and safety measures that their peers in school will have.

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:

Secondary school-aged pupils not working towards formal qualifications this year	Pupils are expected to follow their timetable for each day, currently set at 5 x 50mins periods (4hrs 10mins).
Secondary school-aged pupils working towards formal qualifications this year	Pupils are expected to follow their timetable for each day, currently set at 5 x 50mins periods (4hrs 10mins). In addition to this pupils should be completing revision using their knowledge organisers, exercise books and/or revision materials given by their teachers.

Accessing remote education

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

The main platform for delivery of remote education is Google Classroom. All pupils have been trained how to use this in their ICT lessons. It can be accessed through the following link:

<https://ossma.rmunify.com>

Pupils need to login with their OSSMA username and password.

Teachers will set all work/instructions on this platform, however they may direct pupils to other websites such as:

Hegarty Maths
GCSE Pod
Seneca
YouTube

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:

We currently have a stock of laptops available to loan out to pupils who do not have access to a device at home to complete work remotely. Pupils are welcome to use their smartphone or tablet if they have one, however if they feel that they are unable to complete work that is set effectively we can loan them a laptop.

If anyone requires the loan of a laptop please contact Reception on 01782 882200 and ask for Mrs Butler. Laptops can be loaned out, but they must be signed for by a parent/carer.

If a pupil has a laptop/tablet however there is no Wi-Fi in the family home we have a stock of prepaid SIM cards with mobile data that can be used at home. They are simply inserted into a smartphone and any laptop/tablet within range can connect and access the internet for free.

Where no one in the household has a smart phone, we do have a small supply of 4G dongles that can provide Wi-Fi at home. These are however limited and availability will depend on how many pupils are currently accessing work remotely at any given time.

In the event of all OSSMA laptops, 4G SIM cards and Wi-Fi dongles being loaned out to the community, printed packs of work can be made available by Reception. Where work is completed on paper we ask that pupils, parents or any household member who is not self-isolating or displaying COVID symptoms drops the completed work off at Reception.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Pupils will be taught a blended approach of “live lessons” and self guided study tasks. Live lessons will be delivered by OSSMA teachers through Google Classroom/Google Meet. Teachers will deliver the lesson through a shared screen and microphone, with pupils following their instructions on their own devices. There is the facility for pupils to type questions and teachers to respond accordingly.

Where self guided study tasks are set, these will be accessible via Google Classroom. These can range from exam questions linked to previously taught content to tasks that consolidate learning delivered in a previous live lesson.

In certain subjects such as Art, teachers may send out paper based work due to the fact that it could not be replicated on a computer. When this is needed the school will post this directly to the home address.

Some subjects such as Maths, English, Science, History and Geography will make use of commercial websites such as Hegarty Maths, GCSE Pod or Seneca. Pupils will have been provided with their login details, however if they forget them they need to contact their subject teacher directly through Google Classroom or by using their OSSMA email account.

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 ask that parents/carers ensure that their son/daughter is accessing their remote education daily. Pupils are expected to follow their paper based timetable exactly as if they were in school. Lesson times are published on the school website and lessons will take place at these times, even when the whole year group is accessing education remotely.

In order to support your son/daughter at home we would ask that you ensure they have a dedicated space to complete their school work at such as a desk or kitchen table. Where pupils have to work in their bedrooms we would encourage you to regularly check in with them to ensure that they are completing work.

Routines should be maintained as if in school. If a pupil’s English lesson is due to take place from 9.00-9.50, they should be ready at the computer by 8.55 ready for the lesson to begin.

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

Google Classroom has the facility to check who is logging in and accessing work. Teachers are able to see who has accessed work and what work has been handed in.

Registers will be taken for live lessons and all pupils are expected to be in attendance.

Where work is not completed, or pupils are missing live lessons, this information will be passed on to the relevant Head of Year who will make contact with 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:

Different subjects will assess and feedback on pupil work in different ways. Where work is handed in on Google Classroom as a Word document, Google Doc or other electronic file, teachers will mark the work electronically directly onto the document. Some subjects will set quizzes or online tests that check understanding of what is being delivered in live lessons. The frequency of assessment and feedback will vary from subject to subject. Maths and English for example who have four lessons a week will assess more frequently than Art which has one lesson a fortnight. Where possible, subjects will follow the same level of frequency they do when pupils are in school with face-to-face teaching.

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:

- The SEN Team will monitor attendance, engagement and work complete by the SEN Learners.
- All SEN EHCP students will be encouraged to attend and SENK students who are risk assessed as needing further intervention will be invited in to school where appropriate.
- Two weekly phone calls to all SEN EHCP students who are remote learning to ensure the child has all of the provisions necessary.
- Where appropriate specific SEN interventions will be delivered online.
- SEN students can access support from Learning Support Team via email and Learning Support Assistants will be present in remote lessons and learning to support students needs.

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?

Pupils who are self-isolating will still be able to access the full range of lessons for each day on Google Classroom. It is OSSMA policy that classroom teachers upload onto Google Classroom the resources that are being used in school, so that pupils at home still have access to the curriculum being delivered in school.

The main difference to the information listed previously in this document is the absence of live lessons. Due to teachers being in school with a classroom full of pupils, they are unable to log on to a computer and deliver a live lesson to pupils self-isolating.