



Outwood Academy Portland Remote Education

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 on the first day or two of pupils being sent home?

Students are able to transfer immediately to remote learning through Google Classroom. Teachers will set appropriate work for their classes via the Classroom; this will include live lessons, pre-recorded lessons and appropriate resources to ensure that learning continues in line with the normal sequence of learning.

Students who do not have access to technology can loan a laptop/Chromebook from the school. In some cases, it may be appropriate for paper copies of resources to be sent home for students to complete.

If your situation at home changes please inform the school so that our records regarding students' access to technology and wi-fi access can be kept up to date. Please use the 'Contact Us' button on the school website.

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. There may be some subjects such as art, PE and design & technology that rely on access to specific resources and equipment that students do not have access to at home. In these cases, alternative work will be set that is linked as closely as possible to what the students would be learning if they were in school.

It is important that students continue to make progress in all their subjects. This is why we have carefully mapped the content for each subject to ensure that we can switch seamlessly to a remote learning approach should the need arise.

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:

Primary school-aged pupils	N/A
Secondary school-aged pupils not working towards formal qualifications this year	A minimum of 5 hours with additional work set between lessons (homework)
Secondary school-aged pupils working towards formal qualifications this year	A minimum of 5 hours with additional work being set between lessons (homework).

Accessing remote education

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

Students will use their Google account to access Google Classroom, where they will find work set in Classrooms for each of their classes, as well as some whole-year-group Classrooms. In addition to this we have the range of externally provided online resources used to support students' progress in subjects. These include Hegarty Maths, Sparx, GCSE Pod, Lexia and Accelerated Reader.

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:

If you have already informed us that your child needs access to a device to access online learning, a laptop/Chromebook (dependent on availability) will be issued for the duration of the Covid-related absence. We do understand that circumstances may change and, should this happen, please contact us via the 'Contact Us' button on the school website. A colleague from school will then contact you to address any issues and to resolve any barriers to online learning, including wi-fi access.

For those families who have requested printed materials; packs of work will be posted home or delivered (if appropriate). A member of staff will contact you to agree an appropriate way of submitting the completed work in order to get feedback from teachers. This could include regular phone calls, posting work back to the school or taking photos of the completed work via mobile phone and emailing it to the appropriate person.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Google Classroom is the 'go to' place for all students to access their online learning. All students have been taught how to use this platform and additional support if required is available by contacting the relevant Learning Manager or class teacher.

Live teaching will be used wherever this is practicable to do so. Students will follow their normal timetable of lessons.

There may be recorded lessons where the teacher has pre-recorded the lesson for their class and posted this in their Google Classroom. This could include direction to national sites eg Oak National Academy, or subject specific YouTube clips that are embedded in the content.

Additional work is set by the teacher via Google Classroom which may include revision and quizzes to consolidate learning. In some cases where access to technology is a barrier then work will be printed for students and posted or delivered home for students to complete.

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?

All students are expected to engage with remote learning. Those not engaging will be followed up by their teachers or Learning Manager to identify any barriers and to establish what further support is required.

Parents/carers are able to sign up to 'Google Classroom Guardian Share' which means that they will receive an overview of the work that has been set for their child on Google Classroom.

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

A register will be taken by the teacher for all live lessons and absentees will be followed up regarding their non-attendance.

Parents will be informed via text, email or phone call regarding lack of engagement with remote learning. There is an expectation that parents/carers support their child in ensuring that they engage with the work that is set by their teachers.

Class teachers will follow up any concerns with student engagement.

For students who are accessing printed resources, a decision for how to track their progress will be made on a case by case basis and will be coordinated by the Learning Manager.

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:

This will take a variety of formats depending on the way the lesson is delivered:

Live lessons enable the teacher to obtain feedback from students in the same way they would in the physical classroom.

Feedback via Google Classroom will be given to students regarding their progress and areas for development. This can take the form of written feedback or through the use of Apps which records the teacher's feedback to the students which is then posted in the Google Classroom for the students to listen to.

Google Forms are used frequently to quiz students to check for understanding.

Students will receive feedback via Google Classroom on the work they have submitted. This feedback will be in line with the school policy which means that the student will receive regular feedback from teachers in school.

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 students, for example, students with special education needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access remote education without support from adults at home.

Students with SEND are allocated a key worker who will provide the link between home and school. Regular dialogue will occur via phone call, text or Google Meet to ensure that SEND students are able to access the work and if appropriate they will be given additional remote support from support staff who they are familiar with. It may also be appropriate for specialist equipment eg radio mics to be loaned to the family during the period of absence to support remote learning. Because work is set by the class teacher there should be no barrier to students being able to access the work set as teachers understand the specific needs of their students and will set work that is appropriate for their ability level.

Where we have the resources, we will work hard to ensure our interventions continue to run remotely for our students. . For example, our literacy interventions in Years 7 and 8 run are still taking place. This is completed through Lexia and Accelerated Reader. Our numeracy intervention is also completed through Sparx and Hegarty Maths.

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?

High quality learning will be set via the Google Classroom that is in line with the work that would be covered in the lessons. Where it is practicable to do so, the lesson being taught in school will be live streamed for students to access at the same time as they would normally access the lesson should they be in school. There will be some lessons where it is not appropriate to live stream the lesson, eg. PE, design and technology, dance etc as it is difficult to capture the learning during practical lessons. In these cases, work will be set that aligns closely with the content of the lesson.