

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

Will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?

- We aim to teach the same knowledge-engaged curriculum remotely as we do in school.
- The remote education that students receive is equivalent in length to the core teaching that pupils would receive in school.
- However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, in practical subjects, such as Art, Music, DT and Drama there is a more theory-based approach, although opportunities for practical work are encouraged, where possible and appropriate.
- The use of videos is encouraged, for example to demonstrate music performances or science practicals.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Live teaching (online lessons) where possible.
- Recorded teaching (for examples, recordings made by teachers; Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio)
- Use of textbooks and reading books that pupils have at home
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific, including video clips or sequences
- Guided independent tasks
- Printed paper packs produced by teachers when students are unable to access work remotely. Schools will track and monitor this closely so that these students can be identified

There is an acknowledgement that students may not always be able to attend live lessons, so resources are always made available on the virtual platform so that this can be accessed at any time. No child will be disadvantaged from being not able to attend a live lesson.

Remote teaching and study time each day

How long can I expect work set by the school to take my child each day?

Students are encouraged and advised to follow their published school timetable to provide routine and normality. This should equate to 5 hours a day for all students. Students in examination classes may also have additional learning activities to complete beyond this time.

Practical PE opportunities are encouraged and are provided to all pupils.

PSHE provision will continue in accordance with the school schedule.

Accessing remote education

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

Your child will be able to access their remote education through the following platforms:

- Microsoft Teams and SharePoint
- Information on the work required will be sent out at the start of each week, providing specific links to resources and lesson materials designed for each teaching group(s). For ease of access, these are also published on the school website.

Please refer to the website (<https://netherstowe.staffs.sch.uk/remote-learning/>) for instructions of how students can access these platforms as well as other support and guidance materials.

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. Ensuring that all students are able to access the work set is a priority for all schools.

Students' online access is continually tracked, monitored and reviewed.

An individual support package will be put in place for students who are unable to access work remotely, which may include providing printed materials for students.

Students who are finding it difficult to engage in remote learning may be encouraged to attend school in person.

~~See specific schools remote learning policy for details of:~~

If parents or carers require support accessing technology at home, they should contact Senior Assistant Headteacher, Debbie Sullivan at dsullivan@netherstowe.com to discuss and identify what support can be provided

We are working within the DfE guidance to identify students which are eligible for a laptop, provision of a router and/or access to data packages.

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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 children are expected to engage with the home learning set by school. Staff can expect students learning remotely to:

- Be contactable during the school day – although consider they may not always be in front of a device the entire time
- Complete work to the deadline set by teachers
- Seek help if they need it, from teachers or teaching assistants
- Alert teachers if they're not able to complete work

Parents/carers can support remote learning through:

- Supporting their child to establish a daily routine with regular breaks, exercise, opportunities for social interaction and other age-appropriate activities.
- Where possible, provide a quiet workspace for your child to use which is free from interruptions.
- Checking in with your child on a regular basis to ensure that they are engaging with the work provided.
- Implementing safety controls and privacy restrictions on apps and software.
- Ensuring that children only use official school communication channels (It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site).
- Contacting the school office by email if your child is struggling to engage with the home learning. A member of staff will be in touch to offer support.

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

- Teachers will monitor the engagement of all children in remote learning. Our systems enable us to check daily which students are engaging with remote learning and this is followed up by school staff.
- Where engagement with remote learning is a concern, the school will contact you to clarify expectations and to discuss any additional support that might be needed.
- Form tutors will contact home on a regular basis to support students' engagement with remote learning.

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:

Your child's teacher will use a variety of approaches to check for understanding and assess progress through a combination of the following:

- Lessons will be designed to have formative and summative opportunities built into them, enabling pupils to receive timely and frequent feedback on how to make progress.
- In live lessons, teachers will ask structured questions to assess understanding and will be able to offer immediate feedback.
- Children may complete online quizzes to retrieve prior learning or to explain their understanding of new content. This approach provides immediate feedback for the child and the teacher.
- Children may be asked to submit completed activities and tasks through the online platform.
- Assessment will be used to ensure that teaching is responsive to pupils' needs and addresses any gaps in knowledge.
- Formalised assessment opportunities at the end of a section of work in line with the school assessment policy.

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:

Teaching staff pay due regard to the SEND needs of students when planning and setting remote learning activities.

SENCO's will deploy teaching assistants to contact families to ensure that learning needs are met within their remote learning.

Teaching assistants are deployed to work with assigned students to deliver an ambitious curriculum appropriate to their level of need.

Where possible, external agency work with vulnerable students will continue.

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?

If students are self-isolating whilst the rest of their year group are in school then schools will follow the approach outlined below:

- Students will continue to follow a broad and balanced timetable
- Teaching staff will upload the work for each lesson onto the online platform ~~at the start of the school day.~~
- If any students who are unable to access work remotely, parents/carers should contact the school so that additional support can be provided.
- Students will submit work to teachers for assessment, in line with usual expectations.

If classified as a vulnerable student :-

- Systems will be put in place to maintain regular contact
- Their social worker will be notified (if they have one) and the best way to maintain contact and offer support agreed.
- Procedures will be put in place to check if they have access to remote learning and technology provided if needed.