

Remote education provision: information for parents

Update: April 2021

Introduction

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to students and parents about what to expect from remote education where national or local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home.

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 aim to teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school as much as is possible and appropriate. We recognise that the specific special educational needs of our children mean that often the priority for parents is ensuring their children remain settled and happy at home and therefore remote learning may need to look different to what is taking place at school. There will be times when we will need to make some amendments to ensure our remote learning provision is not placing too much pressure on our children.

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 the remote education that is set will take students approximately three hours each day plus reading time. Please remember that the priority for our children is to be settled and happy at home. Their SEMH needs will likely mean they are highly anxious and concerned about Covid-19 and its impact therefore please focus on their wellbeing at home and do not put additional pressure on yourself or them to engage in the full amount of provision. Your child's teacher will be in frequent contact with you so please do alert them immediately of any concerns about the provision.

Accessing remote education

We are using Google Classroom to set, monitor and assess work digitally. During the third national lockdown which began in January 2021, we delivered Chrome books to all families who requested them in order to access digital remote learning. We also delivered dongles to those families who required one in order to access the internet. We had a few families who requested paper-based learning materials and, if their children require another period of home learning, we can again arrange paper materials on request.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We are using a variety of methods to teach our children remotely:

- recorded teaching by teachers at Northern House Academy with videos being posted on Google Classroom
- Google Classroom's interactive suite including quizzes, forms and sharing of documents
- recorded teaching from other sources such as Oak National Academy Lessons, BBC Bitesize
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- reading books that children already have with them at home
- digital tutor times with individual students at home (phone calls will be made to the very few students who are not using Google Classroom)

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?***

As mentioned above, the absolute priority for our children is to be settled and happy at home. We fully understand the anxiety and worry that our parents may be experiencing about the pressure of remote learning on children with SEND. We know that our children can find independent work to be challenging and therefore we aim to set work that is manageable and realistic to achieve with minimum support from parents who may be working from home as well as supporting their child's learning. Please do not put yourself or your family under any additional pressure and instead contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns about the school's expectations.

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

Children's engagement will be monitored via Google Classroom (or by daily phone calls for any children who are only using paper-based materials). Teachers will make phone calls to parents (at least one phone call a week) and this is when any concerns should be brought up and discussed. A phone call home will be made straightaway if there is a concern that needs to be addressed immediately.

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

Children's work will be assessed mainly using Google Classroom – including quizzes, forms and teachers will mark individual work that is submitted or shared with them. We will also assess paper-based learning and will arrange for work to be collected and returned to children's homes for the very few children who are not accessing Google Classroom. Work will be assessed on at least a weekly basis.

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?***

All our children have SEND however not all of them will require additional support from adults at home to access our remote education provision. Our teachers will set work that is manageable and realistic for our children to do with minimum input from parents at home. Work will be set that takes into account a child's individual needs and work will be differentiated accordingly. Any child who is experiencing challenges with accessing learning at home will be contacted by their teacher who is available to support them and who will adapt the learning for the needs of individual students.

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 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?

At the moment we are working hard to ensure that our remote learning provision replicates the learning taking place in the classroom as much as possible. This means that we are better able to support children's learning at home in times of self-isolation. Our aim is that when we are back together as a whole school, children's learning will be very similar regardless of their place of learning during any time of national lockdown or during periods of self-isolation. If your child is self-isolating they will continue to receive learning via Google Classroom which mirrors the learning in the classroom.