

Remote education: Information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents and carers about what to expect from remote education where national or local restrictions require pupils to remain at home.

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?

At Orion Academy we will send the pupils home with a work pack to complete at home. In addition, we will signpost all pupils to log into Google Classroom to access the appropriate learning package for their key stage.

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?

Wherever possible and appropriate we will teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school. However, we will need to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example:

Art: In KS2 – 4 pupils will be set Art challenges rather than follow the Art curriculum

English: In KS3 pupils will be using different resources to access similar themes and skills

Maths: In KS2-4 pupils will also be given additional links to maths websites and maths games

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

At Orion we recognise that our pupils have a range of different learning styles and SEND and we will discuss expectations with parents and carers around how they can best support their child at home and how much time will need to be spent on remote learning each day. We recognise that routines and structure can be reassuring but learning does not have to cover every minute of the day.

However, we expect that remote learning will take pupils broadly the following number of hours each day:

Key Stage 2 (year 6)	Up to 2 – 4 hours each day. Pupils can work for around 30 minutes on each subject. For example: English, maths, TAL and PE
Key Stage 3 (years 7 – 9)	Up to 3 – 5 hours each day. Pupils should be including up to an hour of physical exercise e.g. Joe Wicks PE or going for a walk/run
Key Stage 4 (years 10 – 11)	Up to 3 – 5 hours each day. Pupils should be including up to an hour of physical exercise e.g. Joe Wicks PE or going for a walk/run

Accessing remote education

How will my child access any online remote education the school is providing?

The Orion Academy website is updated each week with links to learning pages and educational websites. Each pupil also has an email link to Google Classroom, where they can engage in interactive learning opportunities within their key stage classroom.

If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will they be supported 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: Orion Academy will utilise the support available through the DfE's 'Get help with technology during coronavirus (COVID 19)' scheme. We will remain aware of families who do not have access to appropriate devices or internet access and keep an up to date record of this. Before distributing any devices, the school will ensure:

- The devices are set up to access remote education
- Appropriate safeguarding controls and support are in place to help students use the devices safely

Once devices are ready for collection, the school will liaise with parents to arrange for them to be collected from school or delivered to pupils' homes, ensuring infection control measures are adhered to as part of this process. Parents/carers will also be required to sign a 'Laptop and Internet User Agreement Form'.

(Appendix A)

Orion Academy will endeavour to ensure internet access for disadvantaged pupils, including where students rely on mobile data connection to access the internet.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Printed paper packs produced by teachers e.g. workbooks, worksheets
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences, e.g. BBC Bitesize
- Recorded teaching e.g. Oak Academy lessons
- Textbooks and reading books pupils have at home
- Website links to wider curriculum areas e.g. Art Therapy, First News, World Book online, etc.

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?**

The most important consideration during this time is that your child is supported to be happy and healthy. Take some time to talk with your child about what this looks like. Some families may find it useful to structure parts of the day, for example agreed periods to complete work, watch television or do some physical exercise, for other families a more relaxed approach will work better.

- Have a routine and structure that works for your family. Having a plan and predictable day can be reassuring. As adults we like to know what is happening and children like this too. It does not have to cover every minute of the day, but involving your child in making some plans for the day may support a happy household.
- Avoid putting too much pressure on academic work. Most parents and carers aren't teachers and so it's OK not to be doing 'school work' for six hours a day. It might be more important to be spending time together, building relationships, enjoying shared activities and reassuring children, as opposed to replicating the school timetable.
- Don't try to replicate a school time-table. It won't be possible to do this for a variety of reasons. Giving yourself and your child permission to accept this can be a big weight lifted.
- Expect stress and pressure. This is an uncertain and unpredictable situation, stress and anxiety are normal. If your child has difficulties linked to the current situation help them understand this is normal so they do not enter a spiral of feeling negative. For example, you could say "this is a really difficult time for

everyone and will be one of the most challenging things you do as a child, don't worry if you don't get it right all the time".

- Help your child stay connected to friends and family. These relationships are key and using video calls can maintain the connections. Please do remember to supervise your child online and ensure they are safe.
- Normalise this experience. By explaining to your child that other children and families are in the same situation will help reduce any concerns they may have.

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

We will be undertaking the following ways to check in with your child's learning, offer support and provide feedback:

- Regular interaction using Google classrooms
- Weekly collections of work packs for teachers to mark and then provide feedback, either via email or phone calls
- Individual discussions and support with students as and when is needed

We will also have weekly communication with parents and carers to offer strategies and advice around the delivery of the remote learning and to share and discuss any concerns or queries anyone may have.

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

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

- Pupils and parents will receive weekly feedback on their work or as appropriate; this can be via email, Google classroom, a telephone conversation or through marked comments on the work, which is returned to the home.

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate but the majority of their peer group remains in school, remote education will be through the same approaches, ensuring a planned and well-sequenced curriculum offer:

- Work packs linked the curriculum
- Google classroom
- Textbooks used in the classroom