



14 January 2021

Remote education provision: information for parents

Dear Parents/Carers

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils, parents and carers about what to expect from remote education at Plymstock School if national/local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home

What is remote education?

Remote education is a broad term encompassing any learning that happens outside of the classroom, with the teacher not present in the same location as the pupils.

Some common myths about remote education

Ofsted's guidance 'What's working well in remote education (January 11 2021) states that

"Some unhelpful myths exist about remote education, which are not based on evidence.

These include that:

- *remote education is fundamentally different to other forms of teaching/learning*
- *remote education is a different curriculum/offer to the content that would be delivered normally*
- *the best forms of remote education are digital*
- *the best way to deliver remote education is always through live lessons*
- *the most important thing is pupils' engagement*

None of these things are necessarily true."

The full document can be accessed via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/whats-working-well-in-remote-education/whats-working-well-in-remote-education>

How will my child be taught remotely?

At Plymstock School we use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils remotely allowing for flexibility. The EEF research findings show that different approaches to remote learning suit different type of content and students and that the quality of teaching is more important than how lessons are delivered.

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Publications/Covid-19_Resources/Remote_learning_evidence_review/Rapid_Evidence_Assessment_summary.pdf

Based on these findings we will deliver remote teaching in a combination of ways including but not limited to:

- “Live” MS Teams sessions with teachers and tutors
- Voice over presentations and powerpoints
- Independent tasks set via Satchel One
- Recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- Online learning platforms such as Seneca, MyMaths and Doodle

Whenever possible teachers will be available on MS Teams or Satchel One for at least the first 30 minutes of each lesson to give support with the work that has been set. There may be some situations where staff may not be able to use MS Teams as part of the remote education offer, for example, when they are required to supervise the on-site provision or if they are unwell.

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

The government has issued guidelines that secondary school pupils should be working for 5 hours a day. Where possible, students should follow their school timetable where remote work will be set by their teacher before each lesson.

Whilst at home will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?

- We will teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in practical subjects such as PE, Drama and Design and Technology where practicals cannot be carried out at home in the same manner as they would be in school.
- We will teach a planned and well-sequenced curriculum so that knowledge and skills are built incrementally, with a good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject.
- We will use a curriculum sequence that allows access to high-quality online and offline resources and teaching videos and that is linked to the school’s curriculum expectations.



- We will provide pupils with access to high quality remote education resources.
- We will select online tools that will be consistently used across the school in order to allow interaction, assessment and feedback and make sure staff are trained in their use.
- We recognise that younger pupils and some pupils with SEND may not be able to access remote education without adult support and so staff will work with families to facilitate this.

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Accessing remote education

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

All work will be set via Satchel One; students may then be directed to other platforms to complete their work. Examples of these include but are not limited to:

- MS Teams
- MathsWatch
- Doodle
- Seneca
- Google Classroom

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:

- Where we have been made aware of lack of IT accessibility we are in the process of issuing laptops to students. However, these have been provided by the DfE and we have limited numbers. Please do contact your child's head of year if you are experiencing IT accessibility issues at home.
- If you are eligible for Pupil Premium funding and need a 4G wireless router, or to increase your mobile data, please contact rwright@plymstockschool.org.uk

What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

Pupil expectations:

- Pupils should retain structure to their working day, following their timetable and beginning work at 08.45.
- If technology allows then pupils will attend the timetabled live lessons for their subjects.



- Pupils should check Satchel One/school email/MS teams in a timely fashion to see the work set for each subject.
- Pupils are expected to adhere to the school's behaviour policy and standards at all times during all lessons.
- Pupils are expected to adhere to the ICT code of practice at all times.
- Pupils should complete work to the best of their ability. They should work for 50 minutes of each 1-hour lesson and then submit their work according to their teacher's instructions.
- Pupils should communicate with teachers using appropriate channels and ask for guidance and support if needed.
- Pupils should meet the deadlines that have been set; HOYs and/or HODs will be informed if they are not.

How parents can support their child's remote education:

- Please encourage and support your child's work whenever possible.
- Where possible ensure that your child has an appropriate space to work and that there is some structure to their day; include appropriate breaks and check that work has been submitted.
- Contact the school if there are any concerns. In the first instance this should be the respective pastoral team (Head of Year, Assistant Head of Year or SEND Team Leader).

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

Assessment and 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. Again, the style of assessment and feedback depends heavily upon the subject content being taught and what is right for the students.

Yours sincerely



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