

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. This information has been shared with parents via correspondence from the Headteacher. Information guides about how to use the technology to support remote learning can be found on our school website.

<https://www.bhbs.hereford.sch.uk/page/?title=Student+I%2ET+Services+Help&pid=112>

For details of what to expect where individual pupils are self-isolating, please see the final section of this page.

What should my child expect from immediate remote education in the first day or two of pupils being sent home?

During remote learning, each lesson will be taught on Microsoft Teams, by the subject teacher. We are encouraging students to learn independently, so for approximately fifty per cent of each lesson, students will work on learning tasks and activities which will be set. During this time, students will be able to ask questions using the chat function if they need further support. As far as possible, independent learning tasks will also help to reduce prolonged screen time.

The school day will follow the usual school timings. All resources for the lesson will be in the SIMS app which will enable students to access the lesson if they are not able to log in at the specific time for any reason e.g. they are device sharing with a sibling at home.

Students will be able to hear their teacher and see the screen which is shared. Any documentation required, or video links, will be stored in the files section on Teams or shared in the chat function during the lesson. Both the chat and the files will also be available after the lesson has finished. If the teacher is not available, and the lesson is a "cover" lesson, then work will be placed on SIMS app. Therefore, if a child does not receive an invite to the live lesson then they should check the SIMS app. We will inform parents as quickly as possible about this.

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 will be teaching the same curriculum remotely as we do if learning is taking place in a face-to-face lesson in school. This will be the case wherever possible and appropriate. We have however had to make some adaptations in practical subjects; for example, PE, technology, food, music. This allows for resources students may have available at home. In these subjects, students will have a live lesson, just as they would for any other subject area and the content will be adjusted to allow the completion of work whilst at home.

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:

Remote Education will take five hours of lesson time as it does in school. Some exam groups will be set homework but other year groups will not be set additional homework during this period.

Accessing remote education

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

We are using Microsoft Teams to deliver our remote learning. Help can be accessed on our website at

<https://www.bhbs.hereford.sch.uk/page/?title=Student+I%2ET+Services+Help&pid=112>

Work will also show in the SIMS app which can be viewed by parents and carers. Although this is titled homework it is the lesson work as we are not setting homework while students are working remotely.

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:

Any smart device (for example, a phone or kindle) will be able to access our remote learning provision. For the majority of subject areas, classwork should be handwritten in students exercise books, as would be the case if student learning was taking place in the school building. For help please do use our help section on the website.

We have issued laptops to students eligible for Pupil Premium funding in the first instance. Laptops are lent to students assessed to have the greatest need, for example, those students who are working towards formal qualifications this year. We are working towards providing laptops, on a short term basis, for other students in need, who are not working towards formal qualifications this year.

If you, as parents/carers, have concerns regarding Wi-Fi provision please contact the school.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Students will receive live teaching via Microsoft Teams. Teachers may use a range of resources, as they would do as would be the case if student learning was taking place in the school building. Breakout rooms may be used (within Teams) for some students.

If a teacher is not available then students will receive information on remote learning via SIMS. This may include platforms such as MyMaths or recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers).

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?

Students attendance to remote lessons is recorded in a similar manner to those students who are at school. Students are expected to attend lessons and participate using the chat function. Microphones and videos must be switched off unless a teacher invites a student to unmute and speak. Parents are expected to ensure that students are engaging with the lesson and are taking a break, away from the screen, when they would usually have a break-time or between lessons.

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

Students are expected to engage in their learning via the chat function on Microsoft Teams or using the microphones when asked. Attendance to remote learning lessons is regularly checked. If a concerning pattern of behaviour appears, then parents are contacted by the school.

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:

Assessment is carried out in line with our usual school practice. Work is submitted by email to teachers or in Microsoft Teams as requested.

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:

Students who are isolating, and who have additional needs are, wherever possible, contacted by the SEND department. LSAs work closely with that child to ensure that they are able to access the work. This maybe via phone conversation, as a guest to Teams lessons, or in a breakout room within Teams.

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 a student is self isolating then work is set in the SIMS app for them if other students are in school. Otherwise, if a year group are isolating lessons will be available in teams which can be accessed.