

The Federation of Heathfield and St Francis Schools



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REMOTE EDUCATION PROVISION: 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 entire cohorts/classes (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

A pupil's first day or two of being educated remotely might look different from our standard approach, whilst 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?

From the first day of accessing remote education, learning tasks will be available on the school website and Google Classroom (where appropriate). Teachers will be available for parents and carers to contact via the school office for any initial queries.

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 teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school, wherever possible and appropriate. However, we may have to make some adaptations in some subjects to enable pupils to access the learning with resources found at home.

We recognise that some of our pupils require specific and specialist resources in order to access their learning. We will offer this provision where we are able, e.g. sending home symbols, making video calls and/or ensuring access to specialist equipment.

REMOTE TEACHING AND STUDY TIME EACH DAY

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

Both Heathfield and St Francis Schools acknowledge that the pupils learn at a different pace to their mainstream peers. The focus of provision for home learning is on tasks that are appropriate to the needs of the pupils and also those that are able to be delivered in smaller chunks. The schools recognise that most of our pupils are very much dependent on parent and carer support in order to access and complete learning at home. We also acknowledge that for some of our pupils having to undertake formal learning at home can be a challenge.

Learning is bespoke to each class and is designed to enable flexibility with regards to the amount of time pupils spend on it.

English and maths learning tasks are set daily.

PSHE, topic and life skills are set weekly.

ACCESSING REMOTE EDUCATION

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

Google Classroom is now in place for both schools and for pupils for whom it is appropriate. Parents and carers have been issued with the log-on details.

Quality online resources have been recommended via both schools' website to enhance and support pupils' learning.

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. As such, we are taking the following approaches to support these pupils to access remote education:

A limited number of digital resources and equipment are available to loan from the schools for families without access to appropriate IT equipment. The school can be contacted for further information.

Wi-Fi dongles are available for families to borrow, if required. This can be arranged via the class teacher or by contacting the school office.

Pupils who learn best through hands-on resources, will be regularly offered learning resource packs, to collect from school, along with learning ideas/using resources readily available within a home.

Teachers encourage families to send in digital photos of their home learning. Where this is not possible, achievements can be shared and celebrated during the weekly phone calls.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Learning tasks that have been designed and resourced by the pupil's class teacher, which are available on the school website along with the relevant resources. If you do not have a printer at home, please liaise with your child's class teacher, who can arrange for printed copies to be sent home to you.

Live teaching (online lessons – to begin shortly via Google Classroom).

Recorded teaching, e.g. story time, which can be found on the websites.

Learning packs with resources produced by teachers, which can be collected from the school office. Please liaise with your child's class teacher should you require packs.

Books and reading books that pupils may already have at home; we are happy to send home new reading books when required.

Recommending commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences.

Key Federation events continuing remotely, e.g. Safer Internet Day and World Mental Health week.

The fortnightly Federation Newsletter promotes a sense of community and invites all children to participate in whole school events virtually.

We also recommend the Oak Academy special school lessons:
<https://www.thenational.academy>

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?

Keeping regular learning going during the period where some pupils are learning at home is important to support the reduction of the impact on their education; however, as a Federation we understand that everyone's circumstances at home will be different. Due to this, both schools will provide a flexible approach to remote learning. We will offer a broad, balanced range of learning activities across the curriculum so that pupils can work their way through as much as they are able, at a time that suits them. Support is always there from your child's class teacher and we encourage you to liaise with them for support, guidance and any queries you may have.

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

Weekly phone calls with your child's teacher to discuss learning and deal with any queries.
Parents and carers are encouraged to send in photos of home learning to the class teacher.
Work packs to come back to the teacher for assessing.
Google Classroom interaction and checking.

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 pupils. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are also valid and effective methods, where appropriate. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

Via Google Classroom.
Emails from the teacher.
Phone calls for parental feedback and next steps.
Marking and assessing work packs sent back.
Pupils accessing school on a part time basis can discuss their home learning whilst in school.

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 a number of our pupils 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:

Learning tasks are bespoke to pupils' needs and resources are designed to ensure pupils can engage with their learning.
Sending home specialist equipment, where required.
Sending home communication resources, such as symbols, switches etc.
Making weekly phone calls to parents and carers to enable a further individual personalised approach, where required.
Making contact with therapists and/or external agencies to ensure any therapy/external support can continue where possible.

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?

Where possible, home learning will be closely linked to the curriculum taught in your child's class via Google Classroom, work packs and resources on the websites.

There will be close contact with the class teacher via phone calls, where further information will be given.