



AMBITIONS
Academies Trust



Remote Education: Information for Parents

Updated January 2021

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 where national or local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) 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?

- Your child's tutor will be informed that your child is at home. The child's class teachers will also be notified of this. Class teachers will set work using Microsoft Teams.

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 have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, we have had to adapt practical lessons to suit the remote learning environment.
- In the case of a National Lockdown, our Curriculum Leaders have updated Curriculum Maps to prioritise core content that can be taught most effectively in a remote learning environment.

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 four hours a day. During the period of National Lockdown, this includes 3 x 80 minute sessions, plus tutor time. At other times, they will follow their normal timetable, to include D.E.A.R. time

Accessing remote education

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

- We will use Microsoft Teams as a Virtual Learning Platform to deliver online remote education.
- Your child will be included in subject and tutor teams where they will have access to a teacher who will be teaching them online, using a combination of 'live' lessons, pre-recorded lessons or tasks to complete independently.
- Details of how to login and access Teams can be found on the Wey Valley Academy website <http://weyvalley-academy.co.uk/pupils/remote-learning/remote-learning-access/>
- Details of what your child will be studying can be found here: <http://weyvalley-academy.co.uk/pupils/remote-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. We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education:

- We may be able to lend you a device such as a laptop to support your child's learning. Please contact your child's Head of Year or Mrs Parkes (Remote Learning Lead)
- Please also contact Mrs Parkes if you need help with data as Ambitions Trust can apply to the DfE to ask for an increase student mobile data allowance.
- It is our wish that as many children as possible access remote education online as this gives them access to high quality teaching; however, if your child does need paper copies, please contact your child's Head of Year. Details are here:

dyerh@weyvalley-academy.co.uk

bownl@weyvalley-academy.co.uk

claridgem@weyvalley-academy.co.uk

adamss@weyvalley-academy.co.uk

harmeyv@weyvalley-academy.co.uk

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Live teaching (online lessons)
- Recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- Communication with teachers and your child's tutor via Microsoft Teams
- In a few cases, we will provide printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas such as Hegarty Maths, Tassomai, Xello and Seneca

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?

- We expect your child to attend their online lessons and to complete their assignments set by teachers on Teams
- We expect your child to follow the academy timetable
- We expect parents to stay up to date with communication from the academy regarding remote learning and to communicate with your child's tutor if needed
- We expect you to notify us if your child is unwell and therefore unable to attend an online lesson in the normal way, by contacting the main office or using the gateway app
- We expect your child to attend Tutor sessions as this is a valuable way of staying in touch with peers whilst in National Lockdown or when self-isolating

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

- During a period of self-isolation, class teachers will monitor your child's engagement online by looking at the work that has been completed. Teachers may use Teams to communicate directly with your child to make sure they understand what to do
- During a National Lockdown or partial closure, staff will enter attendance data on a tracking document for Heads of Year and Senior Leaders to monitor and act upon
- Phone calls would be made to offer support to students who are struggling to engage – this may be from your child's Tutor, Head of Year or Teaching Assistant
- You will receive a text if your child has not signed into a remote lesson to assist you in monitoring their engagement

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:

- Your child will receive Whole Class Feedback via their live lessons or on Microsoft Teams
- During this time, teachers will give regular feedback in the lesson, either to individuals or as a whole class – this could be given verbally or as written feedback within an assignment your child has completed. It is important to note that not every task your child completes will be assessed but we will recognise your child's effort at regular intervals
- Your child will also be formatively assessed using strategies such as a low stakes quiz or through questioning

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:

- If your child has an EHCP, your child will be invited into school during a period of National Lockdown
- Our Assistant Vice Principal and SENCO Cate Field coordinates our Hub – one of her Team will be on hand to offer guidance and support to any parent or carer who needs support during a partial closure or National Lockdown. Contact Serena Wellman who is our Hub Manager:

wellmans@weyvalley-academy.co.uk

- Laptops will be provided to those with an additional education need and support given on how to access live lessons and materials on Microsoft Teams
- Regular telephone calls will take place with a designated member of our Hub Team, who have experience of what strategies were most effective in the first National Lockdown in terms of engaging our students with additional needs
- Teachers will differentiate work to meet the needs of all learners
- Your child has access to a full Office 365 account which means they can use features such as Immersive Reader.
- Our ELSA staff and our Family Liaison Officer will also be offering phone calls, support and family visits

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 your child is self-isolating then you should still expect assignments to be set through Teams by your child's class teachers
- As your child's teacher will be with their class during timetabled lessons, they may choose to communicate through Microsoft Teams where they will respond to queries as soon as possible