

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.

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, 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?

When a lockdown is announced or a bubble is closed, the response will differ to whether the children are on-site during the announcement or not.

If the children are on-site, then tasks will be set for them for the rest of the day on Google Classroom. They will be able to access live learning the following day.

If the children are off-site (e.g. weekend/holidays), the online learning – including live sessions – will begin from the next school day.

Please note that if at any point the teacher becomes ill, this will affect the live learning sessions and alternative arrangements will be made on a case by case basis.

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?

At Discovery Academy, we teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, there may be circumstances where we need to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, certain aspects of art and music may be easier to teach remotely. We will endeavor, with time permitting, to make sure that all the areas of the curriculum that have been changed are covered when the children return to on-site learning.

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:

<p>Reception:</p> <p>No minimum requirements</p> <p>(These hours will also apply to Nursery if their bubble closes.)</p>	<p>Home learning tasks: 3h</p> <p>Live Story Time: 30m</p> <p>Total learning time: 3h30m</p>
<p>Key Stage 1</p> <p>3 hours a day minimum expectations</p>	<p>Live teaching: 2h35m</p> <p>Independent learning (work set by teacher): 2h15m</p> <p>Total learning time: 4h50</p>
<p>Key Stage 2</p> <p>4 hours a day minimum expectations</p>	<p>Live teaching: 2h40m</p> <p>Independent learning (work set by teacher): 2h10m</p> <p>Total learning time: 4h50m</p>

Accessing remote education

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

When assessing remote learning, KS1 & KS2 use Google Classroom as their online platform. We believe that this is the best tool available in order to allow our learners to have a good balance between both live learning and independent tasks. The user-friendly online classroom is easy to navigate and therefore it is possible for many children to use it independently. We saw this as a key requirement as we are very aware that many parents require this due to working from home during lockdown periods. We recommend if that if children are using Google Classroom on a tablet, the system works best when the Google Classroom, Drive and Meet app are downloaded.

The children will also be provided logins to numerous educational websites to enhance their learning. These include Epic Reading, Times Table Rock Stars, NumBots and Lexia. The usernames and passwords along with the Google Classroom login has been sent to parents via email.

Within the Reception & Nursery class, children will be using PurpleMash to access their daily tasks. This is because we feel that this platform is easier to use for younger learners as well as the children having familiarity with the app/website. Additionally, there will also be a daily story time session in order for children to see their teachers and boost their well-being.

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:

If children are having problems accessing online learning, we advise contacting Mr Walsh (mwalsh@victoriousacademies.org) as the first port of call. We will provide technical support as much as we can in order to get all children online.

We have taken into consideration that in multi-sibling households, there may be problems in children accessing devices. For this reason, we have staggered the live session timetable so that a maximum of two sessions are live at any one time.

When there is a problem with connectivity or access to a device, the school have a limited number of devices, which can be loaned out once a parental agreement is signed. Please be aware that due to the limited number the distribution of devices will be assigned where need is deemed greatest. We will also support families to take advantage of the scheme being ran by many mobile phone companies in order to increase their phone data allowance.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

In KS1 and KS2 children will be given a timetable which will set out the expectations for the children for the day. This can be found at the top of the Google Classroom page for each year group. We expect that wherever possible the children attend each live session and complete their independent tasks.

The children will have at least 5 live lessons a day – with the exception of P.E. days when a video will be posted for the lesson. The live sessions will also be cast into the

classrooms for the children who are on-site – meaning that all children in the year group get the same input.

It is important to be aware that all live sessions are recorded and if you do not want your child to be recorded it is your responsibility to make sure their camera is switched off.

Work should be submitted on the day it is set and ensure that the 'Turn in' button is clicked so that the teacher can see it and is aware that it has been finished.

Within Reception and Nursery, adults can appear on the story time session but asked only to interact with the teacher if essential. Work set on PurpleMash should be completed on the day which it is set and make sure that it is submitted in order for the teacher to be aware to respond. Please be aware the Nursery class's online learning will only be available when the Nursery bubble is closed or if government guidance changes around nurseries being open to all children.

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?

All live sessions have these expectations:

- Children to be sat in an area where distractions are limited.
- Bring pencil and paper to each session and be somewhere with enough space to write.
- Children to be fully clothed.
- Put microphones on mute until instructed otherwise from the teacher.
- Adults not to appear on camera nor speak to teacher while on the live session.
- Show same behaviour that would be expected in the classroom.
- Use the chat and comment functions appropriately.
- Do not take any videos, pictures or screenshots.

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

As a school, we see engagement with online learning as important for a child's well-being while at the same time understanding that due to different unpredictable circumstances, it is not always feasible for a child to assess every single online session. We really appreciate open and proactive communication with parents and carers who make us aware beforehand if their child is unable to participate in a session's/day's learning.

In order to track those who do not engage with online learning on a regular basis, teachers will take a register noting whether a child is present at/ taken part in each session. At the end of each week, a member of staff will contact the parents of any child who is repeatedly missing sessions. This is done so that we can offer encouragement to families and help make the online learning assessable where possible. However, if there is no legitimate reason why a child is not partaking, this will be noted.

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:

We believe that it is important for pupils to receive feedback for their work not only to help them understand where they can improve, but more importantly to keep them motivated in what can be a very difficult time for children. We are also conscious of our staff workload during these times as they are catering for the needs of the children online but also those who are on-site. Therefore, our assessment expectations are as follows:

- Every piece of work that a child submits will be acknowledged with positive praise.
- One piece of learning per week will receive in-depth feedback (it is at the teacher's discretion which subject this is in).

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:

Teachers will try to meet the additional needs of their students wherever they can but understand that online learning does have limitations. Children with Educational Health Care Plans are invited and encouraged to attend school so that they can still access the additional and different curriculum that they receive.

If parents are concerned about the needs of their child whilst home learning they should contact the class teacher in the first instance and if more specialist advice is required

contact the Assistant SENCo Mrs Mayers (imayers@victoriousacademies.org) for guidance and support.

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?

When a child is self-isolating, they will still be able to access online learning. The class teacher will upload the year group's activities onto their Google Classroom or Purple Mash along with useful websites where appropriate. However, live sessions will not be available in these circumstances.