

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

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

Teachers will be in school, teaching classes in school and will be notified of your child's absence when they see the class register. This means that, initially, class tasks may be set on SMHW at the end of the school day, when teaching has finished. The school website has useful starting points for students who are sent home and waiting for work on the first day.

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?

Teachers will set remote work daily and this work will be similar to what is being taught in school on that day. However, there will be adaptations made in some subjects. For example, we can't expect students to carry out the same practical tasks in some subjects such as science and engineering.

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:

Key Stage 3	No more than 5 hours a day
Key Stage 4	5 hours a day
Key Stage 5	5 hours a day minimum

Accessing remote education

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

Students login to their school email, SMHW and MS Teams at the start of each day.

Students receive daily notification of the 5 lesson tasks via SMHW and how to access the resources for each lesson.

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 family without a suitable device at home for remote learning can contact the school. Trinity is loaning out devices on a short-term basis to these students.

When you contact the school you will be asked to sign a loan agreement and then school can supply you with a device for the period with which your child is isolating.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

After logging in to email, SMHW and MS Teams students can access lessons and assignments.

Typical classwork might include reading and answering questions from a task sheet, watching a short video, completing and a quiz about the topic, using an online learning package (e.g. Hegarty Maths), drafting sections of an essay or responding to feedback on previous work.

If a whole class bubble is isolating some of the lessons will have a live interactive remote component via MS Teams. A typical live lesson might include a teacher introducing a new topic, quizzing the students to check for understanding, or giving whole class feedback on previous work.

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 are expected to follow the school day schedule and follow their timetabled lessons. Students can contact their teachers via SMHW, email or MS Teams calls, but if a teacher is teaching classes in school they will be unable to reply immediately.

Parents should aim to support their child maintain a daily routine of getting up and dressed and ready to start the day at 8.30am. Where possible, parents should aim to provide a quiet space for students to work and use a laptop without distractions. The learning experience at home is best accompanied by taking short breaks away from the screen through the day and ensuring your child takes some regular exercise each day too.

Where possible, students should engage with the five daily tasks set and submit work by the end of the school day.

We do not expect students to spend longer than the lesson time to complete school work and we ask that parents encourage their children to submit the work they have completed in the time set, rather than work extra hours into the evening.

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

School will contact home daily, while your child is isolating, to ensure there is clear communication between home and school and any concerns can be addressed.

Parents using the SMHW Parent app will be able to view all communication between teachers and their child too.

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:

Some tasks will provide immediate feedback to students, such as quizzes. In other cases the work submitted to teachers will be marked and feedback will be provided online by the class teacher. This could be in written form on an audio message. Teachers may provide live whole class feedback on some activities where appropriate too.
A formal assessment of a work of substance will occur fortnightly.

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:

TAs are available to offer support to students through SMHW. If your child is struggling to understand the work set, in the first instance contact the subject teacher so that they can differentiate the tasks and provide online support where possible. If your child is still struggling to complete the tasks set, the subject teacher will email the SEND team and your child will be contacted by a TA either by phone or by SMHW.
If your child has an Education Health and Care Plan a TA will be contacting them at least once a week to check in with them.

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 most students are back in school, teachers will provide remote learning for individual isolating students via SMHW and MS Teams. At KS3 and KS4 there will be no live lessons, but teachers will set a combination of tasks that mirror the curriculum taught in school. If a child is self-isolating for longer than 10 days the school will provide textbooks to further support study at home.