

Remote education information for parents

As of 24 March 2022, schools no longer have a legal duty to provide remote education. The DfE's [guidance](#) is non-statutory and aims to support schools to maintain their capabilities to deliver high-quality remote education where necessary. Schools should consider providing remote education where they are required to close their premises in line with DfE guidance.

Scenarios where this might apply include:

- When school leaders decide that the school cannot open safely following an on-site risk assessment.
- When opening would contradict direct guidance from local or central government.
- When individual pupils, for a limited period, are unable to physically attend school but are able to continue learning, e.g. a pupil has an infectious illness
- In the event of an emergency e.g. adverse weather conditions, the school may be required to partially or fully close.

Royal Cross wants to ensure you and your child understand what to expect from remote education if your child needs to learn from home.

Where your child is unable to attend school, they will be provided with remote education for the period they are off – information regarding this provision is also included in this document.

What should my child expect from immediate remote education in the first day or two?

- Contact from school to see how everyone is at home.
- Offers of workbook packs that can be sent home by post; delivered if local or emailed out if families prefer.
- Contact on Class Dojo to links and additional online resources for home learning.
- Follow up contacts by school to see how everyone is and offers of additional work packs.
- Offers of virtual support for communication by staff on site at school.
- Email availability by class teacher from Monday to Friday 9am until 3:30 pm. - providing the class teachers are themselves in good health. If they are not, a member of the senior leadership team will take on this role.
- Email availability by Headteacher from Monday to Friday 9am until 3:30 pm. - providing the Head is in good health. If they are not, an alternative member of the senior leadership team will take on this role

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?

Not quite.

For children with Education and Health Care Plans who need a specialist approach and delivery, following the same curriculum at home as in school is really difficult. Many

of our children have highly personalised learning approaches and resources that would be difficult to reproduce through remote learning.

The focus instead will be on communicating with families and in supporting prior learning by: -

- *practicing skills*
- *reinforcing knowledge*
- *extending vocabulary*
- *encouraging communication.*

Regular conversations with families by teaching staff will help to assess progress and provide additional support and materials wherever needed or requested.

Virtual support through Microsoft Teams will be offered to support behaviour; communication and practical applications such as visual timetables and learning schedules. This will be delivered by staff on site at school.

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

For children with an Education Health and Care Plan in place the school day must be flexible and responsive to each individual child's ability to concentrate and to focus on activities.

This is especially true of profoundly deaf children whose ability to attend to communication can be limited by the 'strain' of watching for communication.

School staff will be able to guide families in their individual expectations of what is a 'reasonable' amount of teaching time. This may change at certain times of the day; just as it does in school. For example; children are better able to concentrate in the mornings than afternoons.

At Royal Cross the 'learning' day is around 5 hours. However, children are NOT sat at their desks for 5 hours, this time is broken up into periods of: -

- *focused new learning*
- *re-visiting of prior learning*
- *food breaks*
- *learning through play*
- *physical breaks*
- *communication breaks*

This would be the pattern that would be encouraged with families at home. With each family guided to adapt the pattern to suit their own child.

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

For the purpose of providing remote learning, school may make use of:

- *Work booklets /packs*
- *School Dojo*
- *Class Dojo*
- *Email support & links to resources*

- *Current online learning portals*
- *Educational websites*
- *Reading tasks*
- *Live webinars*

Teachers will ensure that any resources shared are inclusive for all pupils and can be adapted to account for the individual needs of our pupils.

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:

For families without access to devices:

- *Possibility of using Pupil Premium Funding (if eligible) to purchase devices on behalf of the pupil for use at home*
- *Access to the DfE laptop (digital devices) Scheme.*
- *Funding advice for the Family Fund.*

For families without access to printing:

- *Posting out individual resources*
- *Delivering (if local) personalised packs for learning.*

How will my child be taught remotely?

There is no expectation of teachers to carry out live sessions by the DfE.

However, all pupils will have access to high-quality educational resources when remote working.

In addition, Microsoft Teams can be used by teachers on site at school to provide support for clarification of work, and enable children and families to ask questions in 'real-time'

Some examples of remote teaching approaches:

- *Links to recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)*
- *Delivery of printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)*
- *Delivery of textbooks and reading books pupils have at home*
- *Links to commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences*
- *Guidance for long-term project work and/or internet research activities as appropriate for older children.*

What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

You know your child best, by working together with class teachers you will be able to set realistic expectations for your child. These will be individual to each child.

- *expectations for engagement with learning*
- *expectations of routines to support your child's education*

What should I do if I have concerns?

Keep in touch!

By email, class Dojo or telephone/text.

We will contact you on a regular basis but if you need support, contact school straight away!

How will you assess my child's work and progress?

- Feed-back can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children.
- Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is to have conversations with families and through live TEAMS meetings as needed.
- These can be called at any time depending on individual need and in partnership with families.
- The best feedback for any learning is through 'live' conversations and discussion.

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 supporting 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?

- School will use the same approach as outlined previously.
- In addition, class teachers may set up 'live' TEAMS meetings to enable self-isolating child to have an interactive communication catch-up with their class.
- *In these situations, online safety guidance will be shared with children and families to ensure safeguarding policy is followed.*

Supporting your child's learning

Top tips for supporting your child while they learn from home:

- Keep to a routine as much as possible so your child knows what to expect
- Keep active – ensure your child is getting enough exercise and incorporate this into their daily routine
- Use different methods to assist learning, e.g. online programmes and documentaries
- Stay sociable – organise with other parents to arrange video calls with your child's friends so they can stay connected during social hours

For younger children, you can:

- Incorporate learning in make-believe play.
- Play educational games with numbers or letters and read together.
- Involve them in things you are doing, e.g. chores, and talk with them about it.
- [Top tips to support parents with remote learning](#) – practical tips for parents to support remote learning
- [The Education Endowment Foundation](#) – an independent charity that has produced support resources for parents
- [SEND-specific resources for learning from home](#) – resources to aid the remote learning experience for children with SEND
- [Specialist content for pupils with SEND](#) – learning resources for children with SEND
- [SEND-specific BBC resources and activities](#) – BBC resources aimed at children with SEND
- [BBC Bitesize](#) – resources for children, teachers and parents
- [LendED platform](#) – resources for remote education
- [Find your local library](#) – an online tool to help children and parents find their closest library, which can provide access to hundreds of helpful resources
- [Support for parents and carers to keep children and young people safe from online harm](#) – advice and guidance to help parents and carers to keep children safe online

Contacting information for school:

Headteacher: head@royalcross.lancs.sch.uk

School office: 01772 729705; bursar@royalcross.lancs.sch.uk

Please use Class Dojo to contact your child's key staff directly within school's working hours: 08:30 – 16:00