

Hillside Specialist School and College

Remote education provision: information for parents

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency for parents or carers about what to expect from remote education where national or local restrictions require pupils to access learning from 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. Pupils will continue to follow the contents of their curriculum map, their PLP targets and work towards achieving the outcomes of their EHC Plan.

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

You will have been provided with your child's Personal Learning Plan targets (PLPs) and the class curriculum map. The PLP targets are updated every term and link to the Annual Review targets and your Child's EHC Plan targets.

Parents will also be contacted by the class teacher to ensure they are able to access their child's Google Classroom learning platform, which will contain activities and links to material used by their class, as well as specific activities and work designed for their child.

For those pupils who find accessing online material a challenge, work packs of activities similar to those that pupils are currently accessing at school in their independent work box tasks, can be provided, so that pupils can continue to develop their skills with familiar materials.

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 highly personalised curriculum remotely as we do in school wherever possible and appropriate. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects to enable your child to access the curriculum content.

Key skills that are included in our curriculum are developing independence, life skills, communication, social skills, gross and fine motor skills and self-regulation of behaviour.

Remote teaching and study time each day

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

Pupils are expected to access an individualized timetable of work, based on their individual targets, needs and reward system. Pupils will receive a blend of online learning, activity packs provided by the class team and life skills based on developing key skills for learning. This will include communication skills, social skills and self-regulation skills through accessing their sensory diet. Some pupils will require repetition of activities to embed learning. This may require pupils to access learning in short periods that are frequently revisited.

Accessing remote education

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

You will be provided with login details for your child's class page on the schools Google Classroom platform. This will provide information, resources, tasks and opportunities for video lessons and meetings with staff and other pupils where appropriate.

If you have difficulty accessing material, please ring school to request support or email your class teacher direct for advice.

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:

Some pupils who are supported by a Social Worker have received access to laptops on loan. There are also various Government Schemes that your child may benefit from, depending on their year group.

You should contact school for further information on this.

If you have no access to internet connection, we may be able to provide a temporary SIM card to assist you with this.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Some examples of remote teaching approaches:

- shared resources from your child's daily timetable
- links to resources and websites
- live teaching
- recorded teaching
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (eg. workbooks, worksheets)
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences
- long-term project work and/or internet research activities

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?

The Google Classroom activities and resources will provide you with a structure and routine that is familiar to your child. Resources will include material that they may use every day as part of their timetabled routines.

Work packs also provide activities that are relevant to your child's current learning and individual targets. Your child's PLP targets may also include activities that they can practice in context, such as preparing a snack, dressing skills, developing their communication skills or completing a task more independently.

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

Parents and pupils can submit work, photographs, add comments and complete questionnaires that the teacher can mark and comment on to provide feedback.

If a teacher has concerns they will contact you direct via email or by phone.

Teachers will contact you at least on a weekly basis for an update on your child if they are not attending school.

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's progress will be assessed on their engagement and completion of tasks many of which will be linked to your child's termly PLP targets or Annual Review targets. They both link to the targets and outcomes that your child is working on in their Education Health and Care Plan.

We will also contact you for feedback on your child's progress towards the targets you have been working on so that we can continue to update our assessments tools, including BSquared data.

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:

Many of our pupils are very competent in accessing online activities but for some, accessing learning exclusively through a laptop or tablet is challenging and a more practical work pack approach is more appropriate in continuing the progress towards their termly PLP targets set.

Your child's targets may include personal skills, communication skills, developing independence in feeding and toileting, which are more easily transferable to developing in the home environment.

We acknowledge that it is common for our pupils to struggle to transfer school routines and activities to the home environment.

Some pupils will require support from school to implement routines, structure and reward systems. Where this is the case, school can provide individualized resources, such as schedules, now and next boards and calendars.

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 is likely to 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?

Parents should notify the school via telephone. The class teacher will then contact parents to discuss an individualised approach, which may include a combination of online or work pack activities. For some pupils, the approach will be the same, as they will be able to access the class activities via the Google Classroom platform, including live video access to the class team.

Material from the current weekly planning will be made available on the Google Classroom area.