

# **Remote Education Information for Parents**



**National Lockdown  
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.

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?**

Our immediate remote education offer is available on our school website. Pupils have plans for each of their subjects, designed by their class teachers.

This consists of a range of different activities aligned with the curriculum pupils follow when in school. Pupils should follow their usual school timetable, and complete the activities designed by their teachers.

Each remote learning plan includes detail on how to submit work whilst working remotely.

### **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, sometimes it may not be appropriate to study certain topics without the guidance of the class teacher, or in practical subjects pupils would not have the right equipment/ materials to do exactly what they would do, if they were in school.

## **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: 5 hours.

## **Accessing remote education**

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

During the school closure, we are using Microsoft Teams to deliver live lessons to support learning, in addition to the work available on our website.

Our staff are also using a range of platforms to support remote learning, the main ones are:

The Oaks National Academy

Seneca

Active Learn

Mathswatch

### **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 distribute laptops to pupil premium families with no other access to IT facilities. We assess this according to need and whether the pupil is classed as pupil premium and/or a vulnerable pupil e.g. has an EHCP.

We support families in their access to the internet by helping them to access the governments offer of 4G internet for mobile providers, and also by requesting 4G routers on their behalf.

If a pupils does not have IT access despite the above offer, parents can request hard copy resources (textbooks and exercise books) for children to work from. This request can be made via your child's Head of House.

If working from hard-copy resources without any access to the internet, pupils can submit work when they return to school. If possible, pictures of pupil's work can be emailed to the faculty support email addresses, with their name and the name of their teacher.

## 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 used at DEC:

- Live teaching (online lessons) delivered by normal teachers on MS Teams. Each lesson will have a live delivery element which will last for a minimum of 20 minutes. In this section of the lesson the teacher will explain the learning, model and demonstrate any new concepts. They will ask pupils questions to check their understanding, and will ask them to respond through using the chat function on MS Teams.
- Recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences
- Work set on the remote learning plans available via the school website which will include some of the independent tasks, plus other independent work set during the live lesson by your teachers.
- Textbooks and reading books pupils have at home (if applicable e.g. Yr. 11 and Yr. 13 pupils.)
- Teachers will direct pupils each lesson, as to what activities they need to complete and also what work needs to be submitted and how this needs to be done.
- Pupils may also be asked to complete weekly Bedrock sessions, and if pupils usually do Lexia or IDL sessions, they will be asked to complete these sessions too.
- We will also provide work linked to the wider curriculum, offering weekly assemblies, PSHE lessons, Pupil Pledge activities as well as literacy and numeracy activities to support your child progress and their sense of well-being.

## 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 all pupils to attend their live lessons on MS Teams following their usual school timetable, each day.
- We expect exemplary behaviour from all of our pupils, as we would if they were in school. Please remind your child of the need for sensible and focused behaviour during the lesson, and when using the chat function.
- This will require your support in ensuring pupils have a good routine at home, that they have their timetable which can be found in their planner, and that they are organised and set-up for the day.
- Please communicate with school promptly if you face any technical difficulties through [ITsupport@decschool.co.uk](mailto:ITsupport@decschool.co.uk) or your child's Head of House.
- Likewise if you have any illness or medical appointments which affect your child's attendance, please let us know by reporting absences to the attendance office.
- You may receive correspondence regarding literacy and numeracy interventions if your child has specific difficulties in this area. Please support your child to continue with these interventions.
- Please support your child to continue to work on their 2 weekly Bedrock sessions in order to support their reading and comprehension skills.

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

- We will monitor attendance to MS Teams lessons daily.
- If your child has missed a lesson, or several lessons on a given day, your child's Head of House will be in contact to discuss the reasons for the absence, reconfirm expectations if necessary and to offer any support needed.
- We will also monitor your child's submission of work. If we have concerns about your child's level of engagement with the work being set- we will be in contact to put in appropriate support, monitoring and intervention.

### 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:

- Much of the feedback your child receives will take place via the live lessons.
- This may involve your child's teacher going through what went well, the areas for development, sharing model examples, and re-teaching any areas where there were common misconceptions.
- Many of the platforms being used by teachers allow them to see the progress being made by individual pupils, which they then use to tailor the following lessons.

## **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:

- Our Learning Support Team are on hand to offer additional support to families where pupils have SEND needs.
- Initial phone calls have been made to families where we envisage there could be some difficulties with working independently at home, to offer our support.
- Regular follow-up phone-calls will be made by the Learning Support Teams to children with high profile SEND needs.
- Heads of House and Form Tutors will also have weekly contact with all SEND pupils to identify any issues you have, and to offer support.
- Teachers have clear guidance on how to provide additional support for pupils with SEND needs to support access to the curriculum.
- We will regularly share correspondence regarding support networks/webinars being offered for parents of children with SEND needs, as well as how to support your child at home.
- If you would like some additional SEND support for your child, please contact your child's Head of House who will liaise with the relevant specialist staff as required to give you the best solutions and support possible.

## **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?**

Individual pupils self-isolating will have access to a well-planned and well-sequenced curriculum with meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects through the work that is available through our school website.

The work is tailored to them by their class teacher, allowing pupils to access the right level of work.

Pupils will be expected to work independently, and will have clear instructions on what work to complete, and how to submit their work.