

Remote education provision: information for parents

For more information, please contact the Headteacher at: headteacher@st-botolphs.kent.sch.uk

This document provides guidance on providing high-quality remote education when it is not possible, or is contrary to government guidance, for some or all pupils to attend school.

Remote education should only ever be considered as a last resort where a decision has already been made that attendance at school is not possible, but pupils are able to continue learning.

Prioritising attendance

Attendance is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including for their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. However, the school will provide remote education to pupils in circumstances when in-person attendance for a prolonged period is either not possible or contrary to government guidance.

Circumstances where it might not be possible for pupils to receive in person education fit into 2 broad categories:

- school closures or restrictions on attendance, where school access for pupils is restricted
- individual cases where a pupil is unable to attend school but can learn (i.e. recovering from short- term infectious illnesses, preparing for or recovering from some operations and/or recovering from injuries where attendance might inhibit recovery).

Remote education should not be viewed as an equal alternative to attendance in school. We expect to consider it only as a last resort when the alternative would be no education, and only after it has been established that the pupil is, or will be, absent from school. In such cases, remote education can have the benefit of allowing absent pupils to keep on track with their education and stay connected to their teachers and peers.

The school will work closely with pupils, parents, carers, and any other relevant partners such as the local authority, to remove any barriers to attendance as detailed in the [school attendance guidance](#).

If a pupil is unwell, parents/carers should let the school know in the usual way so that we can notify your teachers.

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?

- **Access to Independent Learning Materials:** If immediate live lessons are not feasible, students will be provided with paper-based or electronic subject checklists. These resources will guide them to workbooks, revision guides, or online platforms that align with the planned curriculum
- **Communication of Expectations:** Senior staff will reach out via email, or platforms like Google Classroom/Microsoft Teams to provide further instructions and clarify expectations for the initial days of remote learning
- **Adaptation of Curriculum Delivery:** While the aim is to deliver the same curriculum remotely, some subjects may require adaptations. For instance, practical subjects like Drama, PE, Art, and Technology may be adjusted to suit the resources available at home
- **Support for Digital Access:** For students without access to digital platforms, schools will provide alternative resources, such as printed materials, to ensure continued learning

These measures are designed to ensure that your child remains engaged with their education during the initial phase of remote learning.

Accessing remote education

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 may issue or lend laptops or tablets to pupils, and where parents or carers can find more information
- Pupils can access any printed materials needed if they do not have online access

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils remotely, these may include:

- live teaching (online lessons)
- recorded teaching (video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- textbooks and reading books pupils can have at home
- 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?

We recognise that remote education can present unique challenges for both pupils and families. Our aim is to ensure that all students continue to receive a high-quality education, whether learning in school or at home.

Expectations for Pupils' Engagement:

- Pupils are expected to fully engage with the remote education provided, attending live sessions (where applicable), completing tasks set by teachers, and submitting work on time
- We encourage pupils to take responsibility for their learning, stay organised, and communicate with teachers if they are struggling with any aspect of their work or need additional support

Expectations of Parental Support:

- Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting remote learning. We ask that you help establish routines at home, such as a consistent start time and designated learning space
- Encouragement and supervision are key, particularly for younger children, to ensure they stay on track and make the most of their learning opportunities

- Please maintain regular communication with the school. Let us know if your child is facing any barriers to accessing or engaging with their education, so we can work together to resolve them

We appreciate your continued support and partnership in helping your child succeed during periods of remote learning.

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

Checking Pupil Engagement:

- Teachers will monitor pupils' engagement with remote learning on a regular basis through submitted assignments, participation in live sessions (where applicable), and use of digital platforms
- Engagement will be reviewed daily or weekly, depending on the nature of the task and the age of the pupils
- If a pupil is not engaging as expected, the school will follow up with parents and carers to identify any issues and offer appropriate support. This may include a phone call, email, or a message via the school's communication platform

Actions When Engagement Is a Concern:

- Where there are concerns about a pupil's participation, parents and carers will be contacted promptly by the class teacher or a member of the pastoral or senior leadership team
- The school will work with families to understand and address any barriers to engagement, whether they are related to technology, wellbeing, or other circumstances
- Continued non-engagement may lead to more formal intervention, in line with our school's attendance and safeguarding procedures

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

- Feedback may take various forms, including written comments, verbal feedback during live sessions, automatically marked quizzes, and whole-class responses to common strengths or misconceptions
- Pupils can expect to receive feedback on their work regularly and often more frequently depending on the subject and type of task

- Our feedback aims to celebrate progress, address areas for improvement, and guide pupils on their next steps in learning.

We are committed to supporting all learners and maintaining strong communication with families during any period of remote education.

Additional support for pupils with particular needs

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.

Delivering remote education safely

Keeping children safe online is essential. The guidance on [safeguarding and remote education](#) provides information on what schools do to protect pupils online during any period of remote education. The guidance includes a collection of resources which includes support for:

- safe remote education
- virtual lessons
- live streaming
- information to share with parents and carers to support them in keeping their children safe online

Further Information about Remote Learning

- [Remote Education Tips for Parents](#)
- [Remote Education Tips for Children](#)
- [Online Safety Tips](#)
- [Conversation Starters around Online Content](#)