St Mary's School and College

Information for parents and carers on our provision for remote learning.

January 2021

Introduction

St Mary's are committed to maintaining the educational provision for all students during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have considered the best approaches to maintaining consistent education of all our pupils during this period.

The expectations set out below will support the seamless transition to remote learning, whilst taking account of the needs of our individual learners and their families.

The remote curriculum:

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

On day 1 of pupils needing to access remote learning, pupils will use Mathletics and Education City for the first 2 lessons of the day so that pupils can engage with Mathematics and English learning. During this time, the Head of Education will collate work from subject teachers to send to parents. Work will then be emailed home.

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?

St Mary's pupils who are not in school will follow the full curriculum offer.

- Teachers will prepare and send home work for pupils to complete.

- Therapists will prepare and deliver sessions via Teams or work sent home.

- This will be sent each week and will follow the curriculum that pupils are being taught in the classroom.

- In PE, we will recommend that your child engages in 1 hour of physical activity. This will be tailored to your specific child and circumstance guided by the parent and their individual, however we strongly recommend that it is outside and aerobic.

- Communication between school and home is vital for us to help support you and your child with their learning. If you need support, please contact the class teacher for additional support. Our staff will respond as soon as they are able to when they are not teaching.

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, however, we are aware that although this correlates to the usual time spent in school learning, for our pupils working at home, this may be challenging due to the SEND needs and high levels of support they may require. We expect that for most pupils, remote education activities will take pupils and students broadly between 3 and 5 hours per day, depending on their age and circumstances. Those working towards formal qualifications in Key Stage 4 and 5 may be provided with additional activities. Please speak to the Acting Principal, Head of Education or SENCO to discuss individual needs:

Mainstream school guidance:

Key Stage 2	4 hours per day (guidance for mainstream pupils)
Key Stage 3 and 4	Up to 5 hours per day (guidance for mainstream pupils)

Accessing remote education

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

We recognise that some pupils may not have suitable online access at home. We also recognise that some parents find it harder to support learning on computers because their child's needs make it difficult to equate home use of devices with schoolwork. We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education: There are a variety of online platforms that pupils can access to support their learning

- Education City

- Mathletics

- Oxford Reading Tree. This is free to access by parents and will support the school reading programme.

We also suggest pupils access BBC Bitesize and Oak National Academy, which provides recorded video content that will provide additional support for pupils. To support with phonics, the 'Teach Your Monster to Read' is a good website to supplement classwork.

Hard copy / printed materials can be sent / delivered and staff will make regular contact to discuss any issues or barriers.

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:

Subject staff will contact parents with the work via email. If there is no access to a printer or digital devices, the subject teacher will print resources to be posted or delivered home.

As with the emailed materials, this work will follow the school curriculum. This means that for the duration of your child's absence, they will be able to maintain their progress if they are able to engage with the learning at home.

We have a small number of devices that we can loan to support digital learning where families are experiencing challenges. Please contact the Head of Education to check for availability. These are prioritised for those identified as a priority e.g. those eligible to Free School Meals.

Some mobile phone operators are offering additional mobile data to support families with no other access to the internet. Please contact the Head of Education to see if this is something that you are eligible for.

How will my child be taught remotely?

At St Mary's We use a combination of of digital learning platforms to teach pupils remotely:

- Education City & Mathletics, if you require log in details to be re-sent, then please contact your child's tutor who has all of these details.

- You also have access to Oak National Academy lessons, which can support the curriculum

- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)

- Work that is sent home can be photographed and emailed in as a record of your child's progress, understanding and engagement. This work can then be returned with your child when they return to school to be stuck into their book.

- Remote Therapy sessions with their therapist in their normal timetabled session

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?

Learning at home is as important as learning at school. As a result, we have the following expectations:

- We expect all pupils to engage with their timetable and work that is sent home.
- Parent/carers will need to work with the school to support the learning of their child.
- If pupils are unable to engage in learning remotely, they will be strongly encouraged to attend a school as they will be vulnerable to falling behind in their learning.

We aspire for all of our pupils to engage with at least 3 and up to 5 hours of remote learning daily, but we recognise that this can present a significant challenge for many of our pupils and their parents / carers who are supporting them. We understand that our pupils all require significant additional support at times to access and complete tasks set. We understand that this is a huge challenge for some families and this is why we will remain in regular contact.

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

In order to support the engagement of learning we will need parent/carers to:

- Communicate with class teachers and email photo evidence of completed tasks for review.
- Communication between school and home is vital in helping us all support your child in their learning and wellbeing.
- If school are concerned with the progress/wellbeing, these will be raised by a phone call from an appropriate member of the school

We ask that all parents and carers will engage with their class teachers to ensure that we can offer effective support in delivering remote learning. We are expected to keep a record of pupil engagement in remote education – where a pupil is struggling with this, we will record where parents have communicated this to us.

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:

- Teachers will respond to emails containing photographs to acknowledge receipt and give supportive feedback and development comments as necessary.
- Returned work will be marked and stuck into the book, ready for the pupil's return
- Mathletics work is marked as they complete it for instant feedback to pupil, and parent / carer.

Pupils will continue to be able to be rewarded for good work and learning when they are engaging well at home.

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. Our principle will remain that wherever possible, the curriculum being taught at school will broadly match the activities set for a self-isolating pupil.

If my child is not in school because they are self-isolating, how will their remote education differ from the approaches described above?

The process for a pupil who is self-isolating and those pupils who are in school with usually be largely the same. Work provided to pupils in school will be the same for those who are self-isolating. Those pupils at home will be able to access the same work from our digital platform or will have printed packs delivered to their home. We understand that sometimes pupils who are self-isolating may subsequently become ill and then work will not be set or expected to be completed. We also understand that sometimes a test result will mean a pupil can return to school more quickly than anticipated. We will try to minimise any disruption to learning as much as possible.