

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 if 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.

Please bear in mind that your child attends a specialist educational provision. This means that the needs of every child will be individual and it is therefore difficult to generalise with respect to the amount and type of remote learning that our pupils will be expected to engage with. The needs of every pupil will be considered on an individual basis and your class teacher will be able to guide and advise you to meet your child's specific learning needs.

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?

Embedded within our school website is a page entitled remote learning. This page contains links to a wide breadth of resources. They are organised according to departments and then ability and curriculum area. Your class teacher will direct you to the resources which are most appropriate to support learning for your child.

As quickly as possible, the school will then organise a schedule of virtual lessons which your child will be invited to attend.

You will also be contacted by your child's class teacher to assist with well being and any social/ emotional or mental health concerns which you may have.

You may also be supported by our Family Liaison Officer.

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. All of our pupils experience a curriculum in school which is tailored to their specific needs but is also heavily dependent upon sensory and creative resources which may not always be readily available at home. We do not want to place undue pressure upon parents at home and so will offer learning experiences across the curriculum which we are confident parents can access with their children at home.

Remote teaching and study time each day

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

The answer to this question will be different for each and every pupil and family within our setting. We will offer you at least two thirty minute live virtual lessons a day via the app 'ZOOM'. Class teachers will also prepare preliminary and follow up work relating to these virtual lessons and send this out to families. In addition, the remote learning page of the school website contains multiple resources for families to access as appropriate. We recognise that for some of our families ten minutes of engagement with a task will be a genuine achievement while others may expect their child to engage for a much longer duration.

Please also consider that 'learning' does not simply take one form. Many practical tasks give our pupils a variety of opportunities to learn new skills and develop not only their cognitive skills set but also their social and emotional skill set. Your class teacher will be able to guide you with regard to simple daily activities that you can undertake within the home to support your child practically in their learning.

Accessing remote education

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

At Middleton School we use the app 'Zoom' to conduct virtual lessons and meetings. This app is free to download.

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:

- In the first instance please contact the school directly or speak to your child's class teacher to discuss your personal set of circumstances and barriers to accessing online learning.
- Assistance may be provided to families who do not have appropriate devices within the home for their child to use.
- Assistance may be provided to families to enable an internet connection (for example, routers or dongles).
- Assistance can be provided to access any printed materials needed if families do not have online access or access to a printer.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- live teaching (online lessons) using the app 'Zoom'.
- recorded teaching (e.g. video/audio recordings made by Middleton School staff)
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- resources uploaded onto the remote learning page on the school website.
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences

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 appreciate how challenging extended periods of learning from home is for all families and particularly for those families who have a child with additional needs.

We also recognise that successful engagement will look different for individual pupils and 'one size does not fit all'.

However, there is an expectation that parents/ carers will support their children in accessing a wide range of learning experiences and encourage pupils to attend live virtual lessons, where they will have an opportunity to be taught directly by a member of their teaching staff team.

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

Teaching staff will keep a daily register of pupils who attend virtual learning sessions. Class teachers will also maintain regular contact with families through weekly welfare calls so that concerns and issues can be identified and promptly addressed.

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. We encourage families to share their achievements with the school. This may be via a weekly assembly, discussions with class teachers and also sharing completed work via class teacher emails. We display photos and completed work within the school and welcome this communication. During virtual lessons, teachers and support staff make continual assessments and record and monitor outcomes and progress of the pupils.

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. However, pupils will still have access to at least one virtual lesson per day and will be guided towards appropriate learning resources by their class teacher.