

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 refer to last [self-isolating section](#).

St James the Less RC Primary School

1. Introduction – Our Aims

St James the Less is proud of its commitment to high standards and we will always strive to provide an excellent remote education experience which, for most families, will be a challenging time. Your child's education is very important to you and, during remote learning, it remains important to us.

Remote learning is also challenging for schools and sometimes there are days when we need to scale back our provision due to issues that arise with our pupils, our staff and any other complex factor which can occur whilst teaching children in multiple locations. Teacher workload dramatically increases during these periods of restrictions. Although this policy sets out our ideals and passion to provide the best, it must be understood that our teaching team are under great pressure. They may be in a classroom with some keyworker children or they may be working from home with their own children around.

Individual circumstance for home and school will affect the statements in this document.

2. Remote Education / Online learning

Typically, St James the Less has around 30% attending school during national restrictions and teaching children at home and in school significantly stretches our school resources.

Online education refers to learning requiring digital access to either the resources and, usually, a device (laptop etc) to complete the work. If our school expects learning to be done online, we will do our best to provide your child with their own device.

NOTE: Online learning is different to remote learning. We always want to look for engaging children in a remote learning experience that moves away from excessive online screen time

3. Curriculum at St James the Less

The model of delivering our Key Stage 2 (KS2) curriculum has shifted towards using computers to evidence children's learning. This was our plan prior to the pandemic. To ensure this works, each child in KS2 has their own laptop/Chromebook. These are dedicated devices that are used on an almost daily basis. Almost every child in Year 4 to Year 6 are competent users of Google Classroom and access and evidence their work using this platform and this school-based learning is transferrable to remote/home learning. Year 3 children have their own devices and will learn how to use them effectively during this year.

Please refer to our curriculum policies for details about our curriculum content.

4. 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.

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

Our 'Meet the Teacher' section on the school website has a video clip for each year group. These video clips have been made by the teachers to signpost you to some immediate resources that can be accessed online. These are age-related resources that will give your child some activities to complete while we adjust to the sudden closure of schools.

By the end of the first day of closure, we will notify you of our plans and in most cases identify when resources can be collected from school. If children are in school when we are notified of closure, then they will take some resources home with them. Our school will provide a range of resources to help children carry out work independently and each individual child's teacher will notify you of these resources.

6. 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, subjects requiring extensive resources (i.e. Art/DT) need to be modified for home learning.

Some activities are best taught by providing children with practical experiences. For example, Science can be taught by demonstration and then recording but, from our experience, children learn best when they are given the hands-on experience and fun that goes with the investigation. During periods of remote learning, teachers will use their professional judgment to defer parts of the curriculum for future delivery in a school environment.

To account for any lost learning our school has detailed transition meetings with the receiving teachers at the end of each academic year. Any areas of curriculum which have not been delivered will be past to the receiving teacher so that our children do not have gaps in their learning. Any gaps will be addressed in the following year.

7. Remote teaching and study time each day

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

The government have produced a document stating the minimum number of hours expected for remote provision. The document stipulates 3 hours for Key Stage 1 and 4 hours for Key Stage 2. The provision expected by St James the Less is given below:

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Each day, children working remotely should complete one Maths, one English and one Topic based activity. The duration of these activities varies for each class with the shortest time for Key Stage 1 and longest time for those in Year 6. Most older children are much more able to work independently. There are also additional adult directed activities (e.g. live teaching) and activities that children can choose from. There will always be sufficient direction for children to be occupied with flexibility for parents to adapt.

Unique Children

Our mission statement respects the uniqueness of all children and this is very important to understand during remote learning. Some children will work well at home with little adult input and some will require much more support. In most cases, the work set by your child's teacher will be under the assumption that they can complete the work remotely. If your child is unable to complete the work, please discuss this with your child's teacher. There can be many reasons why a child does not complete their work and parent partnership with school will help address these issues.

Remote learning should be accessible to all children. The well-being and self-esteem of children remain our highest priority. Always contact the school if you are concerned about your child's response to remote learning.

8. Accessing remote education

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

Most online learning is accessed via Google Classroom or posted on Class Dojo. Each class teacher will always notify you on the first day remote education starts. We will also track responses from our families to ensure you have all received the school messages.

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:

- Children in Key Stage 2 have their own laptops or Chromebooks which they use in school. These will be made available to those who need them under a loan agreement. These devices are used on a daily basis and it is essential they are returned to school in a fully working order to ensure your child can use the device during normal curriculum time.
- Children in Key Stage 1 will need online access to see the work posted by the classteacher. They are less reliant on laptops/Chromebooks to complete their work. However, they will need the resource packs that each class will provide. These resource packs will have writing materials and other resources to support your child at their stage of learning
- Families who cannot access remote learning, for whatever reason, should contact the school as we have a range of solutions to support almost any situation.
- Most work should be submitted electronically and teachers will specify how this can be achieved. For those who cannot submit work electronically teachers will explain when and how each work pack can be submitted/delivered.

Additional Information – Loaned Devices / School resources

Any devices loaned by the school will need to be carefully handled. They will be essential for some children to use remotely and they are essential for most of our children during normal school operations. We cannot loan devices to families who damage or lose them, as the school cannot absorb this cost. Parents are asked to ensure their children take great care of ANY school equipment and resources.

9. How will my child be taught remotely?

Each teacher will specify exactly how your child will be taught remotely. This will be a mixture of live sessions, recorded sessions and directed work and varies for each class.

Please follow the teacher communication, via Class Dojo, for full details.

10. 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 and how will I be informed if there are concerns?

Maintaining a routine for school days is essential and we will expect you to support this if possible. Children will quickly disengage if routine is not maintained and this will result in their learning suffering. Our teachers and support staff will check each day on the quality and quantity of work submitted by your child.

In addition to the above, our staff will make direct contact with you. This will be to ensure that both school and each individual family understand what is required. Our school will intensify direct contact if it is evident that your child is not attending any live sessions or completing work to a standard we would expect.

Please ensure that you maintain routine and notify the teachers of reasons why this is not possible.

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

Many of our online activities will automatically mark children's work. i.e. Google quizzes, Mathletics

Electronic Portfolios (i.e. Class Dojo) will also be used for children's work to be uploaded. This can be particularly useful for younger children who might want to upload photographs of completed work/activity.

Teachers will review all work but are not expected to comment on all submissions. Our teachers will be responsible for children in school as well as at home.

Most marking and feedback will occur daily but there will be occasions that this is delayed due to other logistical problems which occur whilst large groups of children work remotely. A lot of marking and feedback will also be done verbally during live sessions.

12. 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 by contacting you directly to discuss how their specific needs can be addressed during remote education.

13. 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?

Children that are self-isolating should, in the first instance, take their learning from the 'Meet the Teacher' videos mentioned earlier. There are numerous activities that can be done out of sequence.

A member of staff will contact you within the first day of self-isolation to discuss how learning can continue. The majority of pupils that are self-isolating, even with COVID, are usually well-enough to complete schoolwork, however, if they are unwell then learning can be delayed until they are feeling better.

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