



Remote Education Provision: Information for Parents/Carers

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

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, we have adapted how some of the more practical subjects are delivered to ensure that pupils have the necessary equipment at home to take part in their remote lessons (e.g. Art & Design lessons).

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:

| | |
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| Key Stage 2 | 4 hours – this is in line with DfE guidance to schools. |
| Key Stage 3 and 4 | 4-5 hours – this is in line with DfE guidance to schools. |

Accessing remote education

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

Our remote learning provision is delivered through Microsoft Teams. Microsoft teams can be found by clicking on the link <https://www.sthelens.org.uk/> and clicking on 'Office 365' in the top right corner of the webpage.

To access Microsoft teams, children's usernames will take the format of 'school log in@sthelens.org.uk' for example 'pen-ng123@sthelens.org.uk'. Passwords for Teams are the same as the passwords used to log on to the laptops in school.

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:

- Each pupil has been issued a laptop for use in school. If your child does not have online access at home suitable for remote education, we will loan your child their school laptop to access their learning whilst off-site.
- If you do not have fixed broadband internet access at home, we are able to support you with an internet dongle to enable your child to access the internet for remote learning.
- Parents/carers need to sign a 'Parent and Pupil Loan of School Equipment Form' prior to a laptop or a dongle being issued for use.
- If, due to a specific learning or SEMH need of your child, you feel that online learning is not suitable, please contact Mrs Laughton or Mrs Hall at school and we will work with you to adapt our remote learning provision as appropriate.
- If an alternative method of remote education is agreed with school, such as a paper-based work pack, we will make this available for collection at the school reception. If you are unable to travel to school, please contact Mrs Laughton or Mrs Hall at school and we will make alternative arrangements for drop off and collection of pupil work.

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:

- live teaching (online lessons)
- 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
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- textbooks and reading books pupils have at home

In the case of a full bubble closure, form tutor teams will host two live registration calls on Teams each day at the start of the morning and afternoon sessions (9:15am and 1pm).

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?

If pupils feel well, they should try to engage with their school timetable remotely via Teams. They will have support from their usual subject staff online. Work is set through assignments in Teams.

Support from parents and carers is extremely important during periods of remote learning, for example:

- setting and keeping good bedtime and morning routines.
- helping your child to focus by finding a quiet place for them to work (away from the TV, mobile phones, games consoles).
- informing school if your child is unable to complete their remote learning on any particular day, for example, if your child becomes unwell.
- liaise with school if you feel your child is receiving too much or too little work – we can adapt our planning to suits the needs of your child. We understand that it may be challenging to complete the recommended number of learning hours at home – we want to work with families to ensure your child keeps making good progress but also so that there is no excess stress or pressure at home.
- Encourage your child to have some 'screen-free' time through the evening and at weekends.

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

- Teachers will monitor engagement and completion of the assignments that they set on Teams.
- Contact home will be made via text or phone call home if we have any causes for concern.

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:

- Whole class feedback and automatically marked quizzes will be used for pupils to receive regular feedback on the new subject content they are covering.
- Individual feedback will be provided by teachers via Teams weekly

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:

On our school website, you will find the following support materials:

- Parent and pupil friendly guide to accessing and using Microsoft Teams provided
- A link to access the Teams live demonstration by Microsoft/St Helens ICT support
- Outdoor and screen-free activities available in our Home Learning website area

In order to further support our pupils:

- Pupils were taught in school how to use Teams during Term 1 of 2020-21 in preparation for any periods of remote learning
- Paper-based work packs provided at parent request for a small number of pupils, differentiated to meet the needs of each pupil
- We will run a live registration with each group at the start of each morning and afternoon session to ensure pupils know which lessons to access and check they understand the tasks set/have no technical issues
- Wellbeing support for both pupils and their parents or carers. Weekly phone calls home (more regular if needed), signposting to support services and liaison with other agencies on behalf of parents and carers if required.
- Facilitation of usual 1:1 sessions with learning mentors and counselling sessions with our school counsellor via Teams when pupils are accessing education remotely

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 who are self-isolating will be able to access their learning remotely through Teams in the same way they would if it was a whole bubble closure (outlined above)
- Feedback will be provided on Teams by subject teachers in each of the subjects Teams.
- Pupils will be able to access learning support in the 'general chat' facility of each subject Team and will receive a pastoral phone call home each week from our family support Team (Mrs Hall or Mrs Savage) or their form tutor team.
- There will not be two live registrations each day due to staffing constraints if the rest of the bubble is in school.
- We are able to offer 1:1 counselling sessions with our school counsellor remotely.
- As always, parents and carers can contact school at any time during the school day if you have any concerns or need further assistance with remote learning provision and we will arrange a call back as soon as possible.