Stepping Stones School

Remote Education Position Statement

25th January 2021

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.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to pupils at home

A pupil's first day or two of being educated remotely might look different, 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?

> We will transfer to online lessons delivered via MS TEAMS from the first day of remote learning. Many of our students would already be familiar with this way of working.

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 content remotely as we do in school. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects. For example, art, music and PE lessons will be adapted. In these areas of the curriculum project-based tasks will be offered to students.
>
> - Unfortunately, we are not able to BTech Cooking lessons – as we would not be able to monitor the health and safety aspects of such 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 a minimum of 5 hours per day. This is excluding form time sessions.

Accessing remote education

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

We use Microsoft TEAMS as the primary means of contact with the teacher and class.

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 can post work to students.

- We offer telephone conversations.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- live teaching (online lessons)

- project work

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 ask that students and parents follow our remote learning guidelines as set out in our remote learning policy. E.g. students will need an appropriate space to work in. Parents do not appear on screen. Students do not use the chat function during lessons. Our teachers will be able to guide and support students to ensure that they are clear about the regulations and the reasons for them.

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

- Due to our small class sizes, staff will monitor how students are getting on with their learning daily. Weekly contact can also be arranged where this is requested by parents. This includes considerations for student wellbeing. Staff will contact parents directly as any concerns arise.
- Our family liaison officer may also raise any concerns about students, in the usual manner.
- In addition, Senior Leaders at school will periodically attend online lessons to monitor the quality of lessons as would be the case in school. The Director for SEN and Education; Cindy Harnett will be responsible for monitoring lessons.

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:

- Pupils will get direct verbal feedback during live online lessons.
- Written feedback can be sent via e-mail as and when needed.
- Students and parents are welcome to request feedback or additional support at any point during normal working hours.

Therapy

How will therapy be delivered?

While therapists will endeavor to deliver that same therapy that a pupil would receive in school, this may not always be possible for example, Physiotherapy requires specialist equipment and emotional therapy may not be appropriate via TEAMs. Therapists will work with parents and carers to support those pupils in the following ways:

- Contact all parents and students directly to determine how best to deliver therapy – where possible.
- Adapt therapy strategies where needed.
- Provide advice or guidance to parents or suggest alternative activities that may be useful.

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?

Students who are at home self-isolating will be invited to join the class via TEAMS and "sit in" on lessons. The guidelines, procedures put in place above will all be followed.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains our top priority. The welfare and wellbeing of all our students is of paramount importance.

If my child does not feel safe or I have any concerns about their mental health, what should I do?

- Any of our staff can be contacted with concerns, these will immediately be passed onto our extensive safeguarding team who will follow our policies.

- We constantly promote an active ethos and culture of safeguarding so that pupils can feel that they can raise concerns with any staff member directly and at any point.

Please refer to the following policy documents on our website for more information:

- Anti- Bullying Policy

- Behaviour Policy

- SEN and Disability Policy

- CV19 Risk Assessment