

St Bernard's High School



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 document.

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?

In the first days of remote education, students may find that they are given more written tasks to complete, and that few lessons are streamed live.

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.

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:

Key Stage 3, 4 and 5	5 hours work per day
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Accessing remote education

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

Work at St Bernard's is set using Teams software. Your child has been trained in how to use this software, and parents have been sent supporting materials too.

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 are issuing digital devices supplied by the Department for Education as they arrive. These will be given to parents with instructions and a release document to sign, in order to confirm receipt and the terms of the loan.
- These devices come with the equipment required for an internet connection
- The government have issued a temporary scheme to increase data allowance where a household does not have a fixed broadband, can't afford additional data for their devices and the students is not in face to face education. In these circumstances the student should email Mrs H Barnes.
- Any printed materials needed will be sent out to students by post, if they do not have online access.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- live teaching (online lessons)
- recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- printed paper resources produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- textbooks and reading books pupils have at home
- 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?

- Work is usually set at the start of each lesson, and therefore students should be online at that point (9.05am and 1.30pm) wherever possible. However, students and their parents must be mindful that teachers are working from home and face the same difficulties in terms of domestic challenges and responsibilities (e.g. ill or self-isolating family members) as the rest of the population, and therefore there may be times when the work is set earlier or later.
- Regardless of the teaching strategy or device used, we ask that you check on a daily basis in order to see what work has been undertaken by your daughter or son. From a safeguarding perspective, we would also ask you to be vigilant in terms of what your child accesses on YouTube and other platforms.

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

- St Bernard's has a monitoring system in place for checking students' experience of remote learning – subject teachers fill in a weekly spreadsheet on student engagement, and Heads of Department and Heads of Year follow up any lack of engagement.
- We survey the students directly to check they feel that they are receiving adequate support from their teachers.
- Your child's Head of Year would welcome any communication from parents, if you have specific concerns.

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:

- The assessment of and feedback on pupils' work will take place on Teams
- There should be appropriate feedback at the right time within the learning process, and that will depend on the task and its scope and difficulty, as well as the frequency of lessons (Music lessons are less frequent than those in English or Maths for example).

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:

- Our team of Learning Support Assistants is in school every day, and will respond to queries from the students that they supported prior to lockdown
- Our teachers are able to respond to individual queries via the chat function on Teams, and via email

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?

It is impossible for staff to teach a lesson to a class in school and also prepare separate materials for individual students who are self-isolating when their peers are in school. Therefore, St Bernard's adopts the following strategies:

- live teaching (online lessons); these will be limited by safeguarding considerations relating to other students in school
- recorded resources
- printed paper resources produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- textbooks and reading books pupils have at home
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences

Work is usually set at the start of each lesson, and therefore students should be online at that point (9.05am and 1.30pm) wherever possible. However, students and their parents must be mindful that teachers are managing classes in school and therefore there may be times when the work is set earlier or later.