



Remote Education Outline
St Thomas More Catholic Voluntary Academy

Named staff member with overall responsibility for remote learning:

Mrs Charlotte Crosse

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

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?

Our school uses class dojo and each class has their own page to log onto. Class teachers can send direct messages to parents using dojo and can upload work for children to complete at home. This work could include lessons set on Oak Academy website. On our school website there are class pages which include long term plans and suggested spellings and reading books.

Students may also be provided with paper-based resources for immediate access, depending on circumstance.

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 and we have not changed our planned curriculum end points within year groups. However, we have needed to make some adaptations in some subjects including Art, Design Technology and Music because of limited access to practical resources.

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 1	At least three hours of education will be provided throughout the school day. The amount of remote education provided will increase throughout Key Stage 1, as appropriate to age.
Key Stage 2	Remote education provided to students within KS2 will reflect the length of the school day and will be above four hours daily.

Accessing remote education

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

Staff will use a range of platforms as appropriate to teaching and learning sequence. They will work with students and parents to build confidence and familiarity with platforms. We use class dojo, zoom and sometimes school website as places where children access their remote education. KS2 children may also use loom to access narrated powerpoints. The classes will also use other online platforms such as My Maths, times table rockstars and bug club to set specific work for children.

Children in Foundation stage can access work on Tapestry.

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:

If you have any concerns at all about how your child will access remote education please contact the school office (0116 2706365) immediately so we can help you. We have a limited number of devices which we are able to loan for use in the home. If there are concerns regarding internet connection or mobile data we can also support and help with this. If you do require printed materials because you don't have online access please let the school office know so we can support you. We will also be able to support if your child is not able to submit their work online.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Live teaching (online lessons): these sessions will take place using zoom. Links will be shared prior to the start of the lesson. Live teaching will be adapted so that it is suitable for age. All children will have some live teaching as part of their weekly curriculum experience.

Recorded teaching: we use narrated power points for children so that they can access clear explanations of new content by their class teachers or other school staff. We will use recorded teaching from Oak National Academy.

We allow time for students to work independently within a sequence of learning and to use feedback from staff to help to develop their learning.

We use paper-based resources which are produced by both the school and commercial providers to support the sequence of learning.

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 work in partnership with our families. Please contact your child's class teacher via class dojo messages during school hours or contact the school office by e-mail or telephone if you have any concerns at all about how you can support your child with their remote learning.

In-line with previous communication with all parents we expect children to access their remote education daily and we are providing a varied daily curriculum against our whole school curriculum map. Please let us know if your child can't access remote education on any day (because, for example, they are unwell or because of an issue accessing online platforms).

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

We will check daily that children are engaging with remote education via class dojo, phone calls and/or emails. The class teacher may e-mail parents if children are not engaging or a member of staff at school will contact you by telephone. Depending on the situation, your child's class teacher may make further contact to see if any help or support is needed so your child can engage with remote education.

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:

Our approach to feedback in terms of remote education aims to mirror the types of feedback your child gets in school. This will include verbal whole class feedback on work and next steps, individual verbal feedback and written next steps on selected pieces of work.

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:

Class teachers, our SENCO, Mrs Slater and teaching assistants (where relevant) will work with families on an individual basis so that the individual learning needs of students can be met. This may include a 1:1 zoom session or phone call.

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?

Because class teachers will mainly be delivering education to those children physically in school, work set for students self-isolating is unlikely to include live teaching sessions. However, class teachers will share a wide range of resources for children to access at home during any self-isolation. These resources will follow the curriculum path for the class so students self-isolating do not get behind in their learning. Your child's class teacher will make contact via the class dojo or a telephone call during self-isolation to support learning. Because periods of self-isolation are often quite short your child's class teacher may ask them to bring work they have completed on paper at home into school with them when they return to class so their work can be assessed, following the school feedback policy.