



Providing Remote Education Provision: Information for parents and carers

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 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?

At GUST Independent School we are committed to providing high-quality remote education for our pupils. We want to ensure that all of our pupils are able to progress well, as well as ensuring pupils are fully engaged in their learning whilst they are working from home. Our fantastic team of teachers have been working to upload high-quality learning resources that all pupils can engage with. We regularly evaluate and update our remote learning provision and, in light of the government announcement of a national lockdown, we have fully reviewed and updated our remote learning plan again.

As a special school, GUST continues to remain open full time for all pupils. Whilst all pupils are encouraged to attend, we are aware that there will be certain circumstances that may prevent a child from attending as usual. Therefore, we have an updated remote learning plan in place tailored for all pupils to engage with and to keep them on track with their learning. All pupils, across all year groups, will be offered a wide and varied curriculum through activities, games and/or assessments. Teachers will be available to answer individual pupil questions via phone or email during the normal school day. Pupils will also have a daily welfare check-in with the school administrator or a class teacher.

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, some practical activities, like animation, and vocational lessons may need to be adapted or exchanged for something different.

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	3 hours a day on average across the cohort, with less for younger children
Key Stage 2	4 hours a day
Key Stage 3 and 4	5 hours a day

These are minimum expectations set by the Department for Education. GUST Independent School is aware of the damage that COVID-19 and national lockdowns have on the mental wellbeing of pupils and their families. If a pupil is not meeting these minimum requirements, staff will discuss ways of creating a more accessible timetable/curriculum to meet that pupils needs and maintain their mental health and overall wellbeing.

Accessing remote education

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

Primary pupils will be emailed a weekly plan of lessons with daily activities. The plan will include activities that are commonly accessible to all families. Secondary pupils will be emailed daily maths and English activities. Resources will also be sent via email to be read on a device or printed off at home. If a child or parent or carer are having any difficulties accessing any remote learning they are encouraged to highlight the issue with the class teacher who will endeavour to

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:

- pupils can access any printed materials needed if they do not have online access via the school lead administrator
- pupils can discuss their work with their teacher 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:

Some of our remote teaching approaches:

- recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- accessible plan of activities – all in one place
- textbooks and reading books pupils have at home
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences
- long-term project work and/or internet research activities

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?

- expectations for pupils' engagement with remote education are that they will try their best to complete the activities that have been set and discuss any concerns with a parent/carer or teacher
- expectations of parental support are that a daily routine will be followed, as fits your family's needs, and that parents offer support and guidance with activities as and when appropriate

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 pupils' engagement with remote education during daily welfare phone calls – teachers may also call or email
- where engagement is a concern, we will discuss the concerns with a parent or carer via phone

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:

- when assessing and providing feedback on pupils' work teachers will usually do this via email and occasionally via phone
- pupils will receive feedback on their work on a weekly basis as a minimum – if the entire cohort is remote learning this will become daily feedback

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:

We will discuss the specific needs of your child when they first move to remote learning – this may conclude that the curriculum offered is adapted to the main curriculum offered to most pupils. Any adaptations will be discussed fully and reasoning will be explained to parents and carers. Teachers will collaborate to offer a wide and varied curriculum to all pupils regardless of their particular needs.

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?

GUST will ensure that individual pupils self-isolating are taught a planned and well-sequenced curriculum with meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects, including providing feedback. Teachers will regularly communicate with parents and carers to determine that remote learning activities are available and accessible and that future discussions can be had with parents/carers and pupils over their engagement, wellbeing and feedback for completed work.