



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 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?

All children at Our Lady of Fatima will have immediate access to their remote education via Purple Mash and Doodle. Every child in the school already has a login for the platform and have used it in school, teachers have provided guidance for all pupils in accessing the platform and been shown how to use it. Guidance from class teachers will cover aspects of the school curriculum which links to previous learning. Initially, during the first two days, there may be less detail in the teacher's blogs – this will change once numbers of those inside and outside school are known. Class emails will be available immediately should there be a lock down.

Following the first few days of remote education, will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were school?

As a school, we will endeavour to provide and 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 will now be teaching reading through a series of virtual books for the children via Purple Mash as opposed to using class readers or school books.

PE will not follow the planned curriculum but all classes will be provided with activities to do at home to ensure Physical Activity is still part of the planned week. French support will follow the planned school curriculum – resources and video will be provided to support pupils in KS2.

All other subjects will be taught against the planned curriculum set up within the school. An overview of these curriculum plans can be found on the school website.

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:

Primary school-aged pupils	YR-2 (KS1): 3 hours-a-day on average, aligned with government expectations. Y3 - 6 (KS2): 4 hours-a-day on average, aligned with government expectations.
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Accessing remote education

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

We will be providing remote education via class blogs on the Purple Mash platform which will enable us to set a range of differentiated work across a range of subjects; track engagement; inform teachers in the progress of the pupils. It will also help us to keep a portfolio of the standard of work that each child is completing. Doodle will also be used to set work and tasks for all pupils. These are platforms already used by the children for homework or within class lessons and so they are confident using these already. Home pacts will be created for those unable to access the technology.

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 a pupil does not have access to a laptop or tablet, the school (where possible) will lend a government issued laptop to the family. Before this can happen, the parents must contact the school via phone (0121 429 2900) or email (enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk) or express their need for the laptop to enable sufficient provision for their child(ren). Once the parent/s have informed the school, we will then be able to setup an Our Lady of Fatima laptop, which will be used solely for educational purpose. Following the home / school signed agreement, the laptop will then be released by the school to the family. Details will be displayed on the School Website if parents are unaware of this provision.
- SIM Cards from Vodaphone have been shared with Vulnerable Families to enable them to access Remote Education
- If a pupil needs a printed version of the remote learning they must contact the school office, ideally at least the day before, via phone (0121 429 2900) or email (enquiry@olfatima.bham.sch.uk). They must then arrange to come and collect the printed documents on a regular basis from school when it is safe to do so.
 - When the pupil has completed their work for the week, they are asked to return the work each Friday so that it can be quarantined for 72 hours and then assessed. The work can then be returned to the pupil for them to review with their teacher's feedback.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- Use of a Learning Platform (Purple Mash) to create 'blogs' in which daily guidance and work will be given. This enables the children to talk and interact with teaching staff and also a platform in which feedback can be given. Daily registers will also be taken on this platform.
- Through the online platform, recorded guidance and teaching will be uploaded to support children's learning at home. This will be through a combination of videos, slides and voice recordings (potentially using resources from external providers (BBC for instance)).
- Doodle Maths, English, Spell and Timetables are used to set differentiated work for all pupils. Marking and feedback is instantaneous on this and teachers will assign work following the school's curriculum.
- Printed packs, replicating the work being completed in remotely, will be printed and available to those families who need it (upon request).
- The school website and weekly newsletters will provide families with recent updates, links to external teaching resources (Oak National Academy and BBC) should they need them.
- We will encourage children to read books link to the school's curriculum. For those without the resources at home, Serial Mash will be used to help encourage reading remotely. Work, questions, marking and feedback can be given through this platform.

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 Parents and pupils are expressed and detailed though the Remote Education Policy which can be found on the school's website.
- A suggested timetable for parents to follow is provided in this policy. Suggested timings for each lesson / activity are given by teachers. We ask parents to put in place a set routine for their children and provide support where able. Work will be set for the children to access as independently as possible to aid parents who are working from home.
- Following the governments guidance, work is set in KS1 for a minimum of 3 hours and in KS2 a minimum of 4 hours.

- We expect children to login every morning between 9am and 10am to start the remote school day. We expect all children to attempt the work provided to the best of their ability and communicate with their class teacher if there should be any issues.
- Work should be handed back during the same day/week to teachers to enable marking and feedback to take place.

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

- Pupils are asked to register through Purple Mash between 9am and 10am. Activity of each child is monitored by teaching staff throughout the day and a live register is kept for each class.
- Marking and feedback will take place at least weekly, as specified by the government guidance.
- Feedback on work and communications will be evident on Purple Mash for parents to see. Feedback will be available instantly to parents through their 'Parent Settings' on Doodle.
- If pupils are not engaging or accessing the work provided to them over two days, the school will contact the family to enquire as to ability to access the work or any issues they may be having.
- Wellbeing calls will be made by teaching staff every two to three weeks for those learning remotely. Feedback and concerns can be raised during these conversations.
- Parents can contact the teachers through Purple Mash, class emails, the main school email and office.

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:

- Feedback will take place at least once a week in line with government guidance. Teaching staff will respond to pupils on a daily basis in regards to teaching and learning. Marking and feedback will be part of this daily communication.

- The way and the time in which the work is submitted will dictate the way in which teacher feedback to pupils. Feedback will follow a similar procedure to the feedback policy already in use within the school – it will be adapted to fit the restrictions of online learning. The use of 'pink' and 'green' highlighters will be continued (in a variety of forms), and will be used to provide pupils and parents on a child's learning. Brief comments will be given where the teacher feels it will best impact a child's learning.
- Feedback can be given instantly when the children use the Doodle apps.
- There is a stronger emphasis on the use of emails within Year 1 and Reception to provide feedback to those parents.
- To monitor progress, every class will provide a 'quiz'/recap activity on a Friday revisiting the work from the week. Progress can be seen through each child's response and feedback given accordingly. This could be the form of a task for those in Years 1 and Reception
- Pupils with SEND will have their own blog (on Purple Mash) in which the children and parents can access the differentiated work. The use of emails will be used to provide feedback to parents on their child's learning and development.

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:

- Open line of communication via a combination of phone calls, emails and use of Purple Mash platform.
- Differentiated work set up in an individual blog for the child and parent to access online.
- Greater guidance and visual teaching will be provided within Reception class – parents are encouraged to take photos and share activities with teacher to the best of their ability.

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate but the majority of their peer group remains in school, the remote education that 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?

- Blogs will still be available for pupils to access.
 - There will be reduced video guidance from teachers but scaffolded support through the use of different resources. Access to platforms will remain the same. Work will still replicate the learning happening within school classrooms.
 - Feedback and marking will take place at the end of the day or during the week depending on when work was handed in by the child. Further details in the Remote Education Policy.