



St Philip Howard
CATHOLIC 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 page.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to students at home

A student'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 students being sent home?

Both students and parents have access to our Virtual Learning Environment called MySPH. This is where all Independent Learning Tasks are set during the year (in line with our ILT timetable) and where in the first instance, remote learning will be set for students who are having to learn from home. MySPH is accessed via the tab on the school website or www.mysph.co.uk using your school email address and usual password to login.

We use Microsoft Teams at SPH to teach students remotely. This was well-established in the first national lockdown, with high levels of engagement from all those being taught live lessons. The national lockdown beginning in January 2021, saw all students following their usual school timetable, taught for each of their 6 lessons LIVE via MS Teams.

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 need to make some adaptations in more practical subject areas such as PE, Design Technology and Science; where resources and appropriate supervision may not be available at home.

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	5 hours of remote learning, with on average of 30 minutes per lesson of LIVE input by teachers. Additional homework (ILTs) may be restricted by teachers dependent on the nature of the task and specific situation.
Key Stage 4	5 hours of remote learning, with on average of 30 minutes per lesson of LIVE input by teachers. ILT's may also be set including assessment activities to support students and teachers in the monitoring of progress.
Key Stage 5	Timetabled lessons are taught LIVE by teachers with the usual assessment period set to ensure students continue to work on their exam technique and make good progress. On average students will be working 6 hours per day.

Accessing remote education

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

Students will use MS Teams in the main, supported by Independent Tasks set on MySPH. It is important that students use their school emails on a daily basis to pick up key messages. Subject specific websites are used for exam in Maths, however these will be well-known to students and teachers will direct students accordingly.

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:

MS Teams can be accessed via any web-enabled phone, laptop or device. Students will continue to use their exercise books for the completion of the vast majority of their work. They will be able to submit this by taking an image and submitting to the teacher via MySPH. Where students do not have access to an appropriate devices or one is shared between a number of children at home:

- We have a bank of laptops and devices at school to lend to students.
- Students who are struggling to access their learning at home are invited into school to benefit from the technology, Wifi and teacher support available in school.
- Teachers will (pre) record content to enable students to access learning at a time they are able to if sharing a device at home.
- Printed work can be made available for those that need it and can't for any reason access a device.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Students will be taught directly by their teachers LIVE online using MS Teams. This will inevitably lead to children having a significant amount of screen time each day. We are mindful of this and aim to break this up by ensuring:

- Online content is restricted each lesson, with the necessary registration and direct teacher input
- Break times are adhered to and students encouraged to be off-line
- Activities away from the screen (such as Couch to 5k)
- Communication with parents to encourage time away from screens and social media
- Planned digital-detox days with support for students to engage in Passion Projects

Other remote teaching methods include:

- recorded teaching
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- textbooks and reading books students have at home
- commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences
- longer-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?

Students are expected to register for tutor time each morning and for each of their lessons. Absence will be followed up with an email or phone call home. We would ask that parents contact the school if there is any reason why your child cannot access their lessons.

To aide with their learning at home, we would ask parents to ensure that their children are up and dressed each day ready to begin school. This ideally should be in a light environment, with fresh air and where they can work at a desk. If parents have any concerns, need support or guidance, they can email the school's dedicated address on support@sphcs.co.uk

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

A register is taken each morning and for each lesson. You will be informed if your child is not present or engaging in lessons. If we have no response from home over a period of time we will make a home visit to check on your child's welfare.

We continue to hold parent-pupil consultation evenings (PPCE) via our online portal. These offer an important opportunity to meet with your child's tutor or teachers to discuss their wellbeing and academic progress.

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:

In the first instance teachers will provide feedback to your children in their lesson, responding to the answers given and questions asked during class. The 'chat' feature of MS Teams is helpful here although we do ask that children also engage with lessons when asked by using the microphone and camera.

Teachers will also mark work which is submitted and provide feedback to students. This be through a combination of direct and whole-class feedback. It will not necessarily be in written form although email is used to provide specific support and guidance.

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 students, for example some students 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 students in the following ways:

In addition to the online provision described earlier, children with additional special educational needs and disabilities have timetables and learning personalised through the support of our Inclusion Department. Working closely with parents and carers, the Inclusion team ensure that children with SEND have full access to their learning with as much specific help as possible. Where possible, children will be invited into school for small group support or if not, helped remotely with online tuition using dedicated teachers and teaching assistants subject to the availability of staff.

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?

Having informed the school of your child's absence and need to self-isolate, teachers and school staff will be alerted to the need to provide resources for remote learning. In the first instance this will be via MySPH and set as independent work. In subsequent days and for extended absence, students self isolating are invited to attend lessons remotely via MS Teams, logging into the lessons being physically taught in school.