

Remote education provision: information for parents/carers

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents/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.

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?

Pupils will have immediate access to online remote education via the school website if they are self-isolating. This work uses a combination of work prepared by each subject area and can include links to other websites including the Oak National Academy and other websites that are subject specific and that pupils are used to accessing within school e.g. Seneca and Hegarty Maths. Pupils who are self-isolating are asked to follow their normal timetable and access the work for each subject via the Remote Education tab on the website. The work provided is scheduled weekly and wherever possible mirrors the work covered in school. Pupils can request help, more work or submit work via their Google Classroom account or their school email.

Full remote education can be introduced immediately should the need arise during a local or national lockdown, using Google Classroom rather than the school website. This will include a blended remote education approach comprising of daily live registration and live lessons, pre-recorded lessons and appropriate resources to ensure that learning continues in line with the normal sequence of learning.

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?

Since returning in September all pupils have followed their normal timetable and consequently they have experienced the full curriculum. 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, practical subjects have amended their plans to deliver more theory content during remote education e.g. Food Technology, but we have asked curriculum leaders to integrate practical tasks where this is possible to do so. There may be some subjects such as art, PE and design & technology that rely on access to specific resources and equipment that pupils do not have access to at home. In these cases, alternative work will be set that is linked as closely as possible to what the pupils would be learning if they were in school.

It is important that pupils continue to make progress in all their subjects, this is why we have carefully mapped the content for each subject to ensure that we can switch seamlessly to a remote education approach should the need arise.

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 and 4	<i>Pupils are expected to follow their normal school timetable. We have 5 one-hour lessons per day. In addition, daily live registration starts at 8.50am and lasts 10 minutes. Live lessons last approximately 50 minutes within the 1 hour time allocated.</i>
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Accessing remote education

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

Crofton Academy uses Google Classroom for the delivery of remote education. Our blended approach combines pre-recorded screencast lessons that can be accessed at any time via a Google Classroom account or live lessons and live registration via Google Meet. Whilst we host and teach our online remote education through Google Classroom, we also link to external learning platforms and resources when it is suitable and beneficial to the delivery of the curriculum e.g. Hegarty Maths, Seneca, BBC Bitesize and the Oak National Academy.

Work for pupils on Google Classroom can be accessed on the following devices: Computer (PC), laptop, tablet device, smart phone with internet access and gaming devices e.g. PlayStation and Xbox.

The school has used Google classroom since the first national lockdown with frequent reminders between September and December through homework/tasks set or assemblies. Consequently pupils are familiar with how to access and use this online learning platform.

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:

All online remote education is through Google Classroom. Google Classroom can be accessed via a computer (PC), laptop, tablet device or smartphone. In addition, Google Classroom can be accessed via the following games consoles: PlayStation and Xbox.

The blended approach of some live lessons and pre-recorded lessons gives the pupils more flexibility of when to complete their lessons if the family only has one device or siblings are sharing a device.

Live registration can be accessed via a smartphone using the free to download Google Classroom and Google Meet apps. We do recommend that pupils access live lessons and their pre-recorded lessons and work via a computer (PC)/laptop as it is much easier to navigate the platform and complete work.

Wherever possible we loan out laptops to pupils who have no access to a device for remote education. We have also issued our allocated allowance of DfE devices to pupils who have no access to a device. In addition, we have also offered increased data sim cards to enable pupils with restricted internet data to access remote education.

We ask that parents/carers inform the school of any difficulties in accessing remote education by contacting the school: admin@croftonacademy.org.uk

Due to the nature of the blended approach we are using to deliver remote education, it is not always possible to print out work for pupils to use instead of accessing online lessons. However, any pupils who are experiencing difficulties should contact their Year Leader in the first instance and we will then make arrangements as necessary.

Pupils are asked to submit work via Google Classroom or by emailing work to their class teacher. Pupils can take a photo of work produced on paper and upload this photo direct to Google Classroom and send to their teacher.

Following government guidance to stay at home and reduce contacts, we do not recommend that pupils or parents/carers bring work into school.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Some examples of the remote education teaching approaches we use at Crofton Academy:

- *Daily live registration – providing information about what is happening in school and ensuring our pupils have the connections and sense of school community during the remote education period.*
- *Weekly assemblies focusing on values and Social, moral, spiritual and cultural aspects of the curriculum as well as wellbeing and mental health support.*
- *Live teaching (online lessons) via Google Classroom/Google Meet.*
- *Interactive styles of teaching include, for example, the use of quizzes and Google Classroom add-ons e.g. Jamboard. Teachers will, at times, ‘live’ mark pupils’ work on Google Classroom, using the assignment function or through linked Google Forms.*
- *Lessons are differentiated, both in terms of pace, challenge and support, through the knowledge of the classroom teacher.*
- *Pre-recorded teaching using screencast lessons.*
- *Pre-recorded teaching using links to the Oak National Academy lessons.*
- *Commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences e.g. Hegarty Maths, BBC Bitesize, Educake, Seneca.*
- *Printed paper packs produced by teachers for a small number of pupils who need extra support (e.g. workbooks, worksheets).*
- *Textbooks and reading books pupils have at home or online digital versions embedded into live or pre-recorded lessons via Google Classroom/ Google Meet.*

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 expect pupils to attend daily live registration at 8.50am. Pupils' attendance at these sessions will be recorded. In addition, pupils are expected to follow their normal school timetable. They should check their timetable, Google Stream and Classwork along with their school Gmail account every morning prior to or directly after live registration. This will prepare them for the day and ensures they will know which lessons will be live and which will be pre-recorded screencasts.

We have introduced daily live registration to help pupils get into the routine of being up and prepared for the learning of the day as well as having the opportunity to engage with their peers and Form Tutor. Parents/carers can help by ensuring their child is up, dressed appropriately and ready to join their live registration at 8.50am. Form Tutors will use this time to 'check in' with their pupils and provide opportunity for pupils to ask any questions they may have about the day ahead or raise issues about barriers to learning or mental health and wellbeing. After live registration, pupils should then be encouraged to check their Google Classroom Stream and the Classwork tab each morning for messages, live lesson information and assignments.

In addition, we ask for parents/carers to support the school by ensuring their child is fully aware of, and complies with, the remote education protocols for the behaviour and conduct we expect during the period of remote education. These protocols are based upon our established Ready, Respect, Safe school rules. We also ask that parents/carers provide a suitable learning environment for their child to access remote education.

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

Pupil attendance at live registration will be recorded each day. Teachers are tracking pupils' engagement in live lessons and also in the completion of assignments and the work they hand in on time. School staff will be contacting parents/carer by telephone if their child is identified as not engaging with live registration and/or lessons or not engaging with the learning/submitting work as required.

We have adapted our rewards system (E-praise and messages home via text) to reflect attendance and engagement in remote education. Pupils will be rewarded and updated weekly.

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:

Live and pre-recorded lessons are delivered by the regular timetabled class teacher and this allows for a continuation of Assessment for Learning strategies, feedback, and genuine interaction between the teacher and pupils in the class. This also allows for planned and immediate differentiation and support, both in terms of pace and difficulty.

Feedback via Google Classroom will be given to pupils regarding their progress and areas for development. This can take the form of written feedback. Google Forms are used frequently to quiz pupils to check for understanding. Pupils will receive feedback via Google Classroom on the work they have submitted. This feedback will be in line with the school policy which means that the pupils will receive regular feedback from their teachers in school.

All pupils will receive at least weekly feedback from their teachers where they have more than one lesson per week.

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 SENCO and SEND department staff work closely with pupils with SEND and they form the link between home and school. The school keeps in regular contact with parents/carers and SEND pupils via phone call, text or virtual meeting (as appropriate) to ensure that SEND pupils are able to access the remote education work and if appropriate they will be given additional remote support from support staff who they are familiar with. Google Classroom allows the class teacher the flexibility of setting differentiated work so there should be no barrier to pupils being able to access the work set as teachers understand the specific needs of their pupils and will set work that is appropriate for their ability levels.

We do encourage pupils with an EHCP or who are vulnerable to attend school during lockdown.

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?

Pupils will have immediate access to online remote education via the school website if they are self-isolating. This work uses a combination of work prepared by the subject area and can include links to other websites including the Oak National Academy and other websites that are subject specific and that pupils are used to dealing with in school e.g. Seneca and Hegarty Maths. Pupils who are self-isolating are asked to follow their normal timetable and access the work for each subject via the Remote Education tab on the website. The work provided is scheduled weekly and wherever possible mirrors the work covered in school. Pupils can request help, more work or submit work via their Google Classroom account or their school email.