



**Sheffield Springs Academy**

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

# Remote Education provision: Information for Parents



**Sheffield Springs Academy**

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

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?**

Parents, carers and pupils will be given information regarding how remote education at Sheffield Springs Academy will work and expectations will be made clear.

The school will deliver live lessons to all pupils who are not required to attend school. Whilst we will not follow the normal in-school timetable, all pupils will have access to every subject that they normally follow. This will ensure that all pupils continue to access a broad and balanced curriculum.

The school will use Microsoft Teams to deliver our remote education provision. All pupils are aware on how to log on to this software and will use their normal in-school login details. Lessons will be run via Microsoft live events or Microsoft live meetings. All pupils will have links to every lesson they are required to attend at the start of each day. Pupils click on these links at their allocated lesson time. Pupil timetables are available on Microsoft teams and the school's website.

If pupils experience any problems logging on to Microsoft teams, please contact school via the telephone number 0114 2392631.

If pupils have problems with internet access or suitable computing equipment please contact school. Heads of Year and form tutors will remain in close contact with all pupils during the lockdown period and provide any necessary support.

### **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, Physical Education does not run as a live lesson but as a series of challenges.

### **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	Each student will receive 6 x 50 minutes of teaching each day. This equates to at least 5 hours of learning per day and 25 hours of learning per week. In addition, we offer a range of extra-curricular activities outside of these times.
-------------------	---

## Accessing remote education

### How will my child access any online remote education school is providing?

To deliver live learning we use Microsoft Teams. This is where students will find live links to all their lessons. There is also other useful information such as the school timetable.

In addition, we use the following software – Sparx Maths (Year 7 only), Hegarty Maths (Years 8 – 11), Bedrock Learning (Year 7 only) and Seneca (all year groups).

### If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will school 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:

- We conduct regular surveys with families to ensure that our students have the right equipment to access our online learning. Our staff also maintain regular contact with students to ensure they can access their lessons.
- Where we identify that a student cannot access online learning due to device issues then we will set up the necessary equipment and arrange either a delivery or collection date with parents. All collections will take place at a mutually agreed time from the school reception.
- If students are still unable to access online learning following the above, we may send paper work packs home which can be returned for marking via the school reception

### How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Below are some examples of our remote teaching approaches:

- live teaching (online lessons)
- recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- textbooks and reading books pupils have at home
- software that is detailed earlier in this document

## 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?

- It is our expectations that students attend all their timetabled lessons. If they wish to join our extra-curricular provision, then they will be warmly welcomed. All lessons start at 9am and finish at 3pm. As in any normal school day we will ensure that all students get time for breaks throughout the day.
- We ask parents to support us by ensuring their child follows a structured routine. That they go to bed at a reasonable time so that they can log on to their remote learning on time and without feeling tired. We would ask that students work in a public but relatively quiet place at home where supervision can be maintained. It is useful if parents can become familiar with their child's timetable. This is available on our website and on Microsoft Teams.

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

- We use a variety of methods to check engagement, these range from setting quizzes during and after a lesson checking new knowledge gained, setting assignments which check retention of new learning, as well as using the 'Q&A' box (in Live Events) and the 'chat' function in Meetings.
- We monitor attendance at every lesson by using the functionality of MS Teams participant lists which allows us to see exactly which students have logged on and for how long.
- If your child's teachers, Form Tutor or Head of Year have concerns about your child's engagement with learning, we will try to contact you in a range of ways, these will include:
  - Telephone call
  - Text message
  - Email
  - Home visit
- We appreciate all of the efforts that you as parents and carers are taking to support your child's learning during these challenging times.

### 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:

- We use a range of methods as above – staff may use some or all of the assessment strategies below
  - Automatically marked quizzes on MS Teams
  - Teacher marked assignments set on MS Teams through 'Assignments'
  - Written tasks which are then sent to the teacher via the subject group or email
  - 'Live Marking' using shared PowerPoints, whiteboard applications (such as Whiteboard.fi), or using the functionality of Class Notebook in OneNote – a part of Office 365.

## **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:

- Phone calls home to all parents and carers of students with SEN are attempted every 2 weeks to offer support, guidance and strategies.
- Support by teachers during a lesson through Q&A, detailed explanation and scaffolding.
- Students who have an Education, Health and Care Plan have an offer of a full time place in school.
- Staff are available by telephone and via email to support – please contact [enquiries@sheffieldsprings.org](mailto:enquiries@sheffieldsprings.org) if you wish to discuss your child's needs and support.
- Targeted interventions to support literacy and numeracy delivered during the day in a small group setting – staff from the SEND team will contact you if your child is invited to these.
- Student's social and emotional needs will also be supported through the pastoral team.

### **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?**

- Through the period of lockdown, we have developed strategies for teaching cohorts of students both in the room and learning from home.
- If it is appropriate, we will set up live lessons for isolating students to access. However, this is not always the best way to conduct the learning and students will be directed to tasks through MS Teams if there are better ways to ensure the learning journey continues effectively.