



**ACORN**  
A Secondary Alternative Provision

## Remote Education at Acorn

## **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 pupils will be provided with a package of work focusing on core subjects and key skills. This work can be completed independently. This work may be sent home with your child or deliver by post. The purpose of this is to bridge the gap before the learning via Microsoft Teams will begin.

#### **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, practical subjects such as Food Preparation & Nutrition, Mechanical Engineering and Construction may focus on research based work rather than the practical elements students may expect in school. For students completing coursework, this will be set by subject teachers for students to complete.

### **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:

Secondary school-aged pupils	<p>Students have five hours' work a day.</p> <p>In addition to this students will have a morning and an afternoon check in time with staff.</p>
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## Accessing remote education

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

Acorn will be using Microsoft Teams for online remote learning. This can be accessed via PC, Laptop, Smartphone, Tablet, PS4/5 & Xbox one.

### 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:

Acorn will contact all parents and discuss preferences as to how you wish your child to access remote education.

For those students who prefer to work on paper we will supply paper copies via Royal Mail, hand delivery or with your child if they are attending school. Staff will be in touch on a weekly basis to check engagement and progress. During these phone calls they will check to see if you require additional work provided.

Work completed can be submitted to parents using the same methods as above. Parents may also wish to submit work electronically. Electronic work, which may include photographs or work scanned documents, can be emailed to [evetyson@theacornschoo.co.uk](mailto:evetyson@theacornschoo.co.uk).

For the 2020 to 2021 academic year, DfE is providing laptops and tablets to schools to help children and families in need to access remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19). The DfE will also support students getting online by providing free mobile data increases or 4G wireless routers. Parents are unable to apply for these. If you require a laptop or information about internet access, please contact the school and an application can be made on your behalf.

## How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- live meetings with staff via Microsoft Teams
- tasks set via Microsoft Teams linked to in school work.
- 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?

Acorn asks parents to facilitate and encourage their child to engage and complete tasks set by staff.

We encourage parents to set routines for their child. This may include dedicated 'school time' during the day. To help support this we have structured our school day to provided support to students via teams.

#### **Online Learning**

Mrs Shury and Miss Tyson will be available between 9.30am – 10am (Monday-Friday) on Microsoft Teams to speak directly with students and set the work for the day. They will then be available from 2pm to accept students work.

#### **Paper Based learning**

Staff have provided a package of work for students to complete at home. Completed work can be submitted via post or sent electronically to [evetyson@theacornschoo.co.uk](mailto:evetyson@theacornschoo.co.uk)

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

### **Online**

Staff will be able to track student's online engagement on a daily basis. If students are not engaging staff will contact parents to share concerns and see what extra support can be put in place.

### **Paper Based**

Staff will check in on a weekly basis to check engagement at home. Parents can request additional work or share concerns during these phone calls.

## **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:

Daily feedback can be given to students during check in sessions with staff, as they or a student might write in the chat function during the lesson which can then be commented on.

This may also include online quizzes or mini tests provided by digital platforms.

Any work that is done in a book, or on paper, will also fall into the usual cycle of whole class 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 know that for some of our students may not be able to access remote education without support from adults at home. We acknowledge the may place difficulties on families and will work with parents and carers to support students in the following ways:

- We can clearly track engagement of students with SEND and targeted calls home are made when engagement is not high.
- We ensure that students with SEND are carefully talked though how to engage with live lessons.

## **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?**

Students can access their live lessons in the same way as above. If your child is self-isolating arrangements will be made with staff to contact your child to provide and explain the work at a convenient time.