Arbour House School

Guide to Home Learning

Information for Parents and Carers

Arbour House School aims to provide education that is highly personalised, bespoke and creative, tailored to support our SEND pupils in the best way possible for them as unique individuals. We aim to offer a learning environment that is accessible, purposeful and achievable and this continues even when our pupils find themselves learning at home, regardless of circumstances. Learning at home is also called 'remote learning'.

Arbour House staff will do their very best to ensure that a familiar daily schedule is maintained for each pupil, taking into account individual learning needs and styles, whilst aiming to promote positive experiences for all of our pupils.

We recognise that not all of our pupils will be able to manage learning remotely, and Arbour House will work closely with parents and carers to try to offer creative, realistic and achievable alternatives where possible for pupils who cannot cope in this context.

We will aim to maintain any wider support services that children and young people would normally receive at school, such as Thrive sessions and 1:1 Speech and Language provision for example, as long as pupils are able to continue to access this wider support in a way that continues to meet their needs at this time..

What can I expect from immediate remote education in the first day or two of pupils being sent home?

A pupil's first day or two of being educated remotely might look different from our usual approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a longer period of remote teaching.

An individualised timetable will be discussed with parent/carers. It will follow, where possible, the lessons they follow at school in the same order, but we understand the need for flexibility.

Pupils and their families will have to adapt to the change in routine from school to home learning, and for some pupils and families that may be more difficult or take longer than others.

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

- Where possible we will teach similar content remotely to the curriculum that would be covered in school, and we will aim to teach that curriculum in the same order as on their school timetable, but given the significant complexity of our pupils' needs, we may at times need to adapt that curriculum content or method of delivery to best meet their needs at that particular time.

- The majority of our pupils will need a combination of different types of learning activities. Many cannot sit for sustained periods of time in front of a computer or remote device, so they will need a blend of paper based, practical and online learning tasks as part of their remote learning package.

- For some pupils a paper-based learning pack will be the best option so they can cope by separating home and school, or pupils who find ICT dysregulating for example, or those who can only connect the computer at home to play or leisure activities and would be too stressed or anxious to make a different association.

- Most of our pupils require support to learn so we will offer wherever possible direct face to face contact with their teacher or their support staff.

- For the majority of our pupils it will be important to maintain contact with their classmates and friends and so we may also offer some group sessions.

- Many of our pupils learn in a very hands-on kinesthetic way i.e. by 'doing', and it may not be possible for many parents and carers to facilitate the exact same timetable from home or support with practical activities if they do not have the resources at home to do so – like sand trays for writing, or clay and paint for Art for example. We may then need to adapt the timetable to suit.

- After consultation with parents/carers an agreed approach will be delivered, and a timetable of suggested activity will be provided - if it is supportive to both pupil and parent to have a timetable.

- If a pupil's home learning timetable does need to be adapted, we will discuss that with parents/carers in advance whenever possible.

Remote Teaching and Study Time Each Day

How long can I expect the work set by the school to take my child to complete each day?

It is not possible to stipulate here the number of hours due to the very individual learning needs of all pupils. For some children activities will last a few minutes and other pupils will be able to engage with learning for much longer sustained periods of time.

Study time is not necessarily dependent on their age, or what Key Stage they are in, but determined more by their special educational needs.

For Primary Pupils:
- A timetable will be discussed with parent/carers tailored to individual children's needs.   - We ask parent/carers to recognise the importance of structure and routine and the use of a schedule or visual timetable where possible if this helps your child.   - We encourage short sessions of learning to support the child to stay focussed.   - Any home learning that causes high anxiety and/or distress should not be included.

For Secondary Pupils:
- A timetable will be discussed with parent/carers tailored to individual children's needs.   - We ask parent/carers to recognise the importance of structure and routine and the use of a schedule or visual timetable where possible if this helps your child.   - We encourage a combination of short and longer sessions of learning, dependent on the child's needs and ability, and also for those pupils that can manage this, some periods of independent study.   - Any home learning that causes high anxiety and/or distress should not be included.

For Sixth Form Pupils:
- A timetable will be discussed with parent/carers tailored to individual children's needs.   - We ask parent/carers to recognise the importance of structure and routine and the use of a schedule or visual timetable where possible if this helps your child.   - We encourage a combination of short and longer sessions of learning, dependent on the child's needs and ability, and also for those pupils that can manage this, some periods of independent study.   - Any home learning that causes high anxiety and/or distress should not be included.

Accessing Remote Education

How will my child access the remote learning that you will provide?

The vast majority of our online remote learning will be face to face learning via Microsoft TEAMS, if parent/carers are able to facilitate this access from home.

We understand other arrangements may be necessary and we will endeavour to provide whatever is deemed best to meet individual pupils' needs on a bespoke basis.

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.

- It is possible for us to issue or lend laptops or notebooks to pupils, and parent/carers should contact their child's teacher or the School Office for further information if online access at home is difficult.

- It may also be possible that we can lend devices that enable an internet connection, for example, routers or dongles, and parents or carers should discuss this initially with their child's teacher or the School Office.

- Printed materials that pupils need to access can be sent home if needs be upon request, via post or dropped off.

- Pupils can submit their work by posting to the school, for the attention of their class teacher if they do not have online access. The school may be able to help with postage costs in this circumstance.

Engagement and Feedback

What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parent/carers should provide at home?

- We expect all pupils to engage with remote education as far as they are realistically able to do so, and ee understand that levels of engagement will be different for different pupils.
- We will maintain direct contact with your child on a daily basis, unless this triggers distress or anxiety and then your child's teacher will discuss this with you.
- Please set and maintain routines to support your child's education.
- Please ensure you make direct contact with the teacher at the start and end of each online session.

How will my child be taught remotely?

We use a combination of approaches to teach pupils remotely.

Approaches will depend on individual pupil's needs and their own unique learning style, so not all pupils will be taught in the same way.

Some of our approaches to teaching your child remotely may include:

- live teaching (online lessons)
- recorded teaching (e.g. video/audio recordings made by teachers)
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- textbooks and reading books pupils may have at home
- 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.

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

- We will check on your child's engagement with their schoolwork on a daily basis.
- If there are any concerns your child's class teacher will make contact with you directly to discuss the issues. They will work with you to support you and your child to resolve them and to engage in their learning to the best of their ability.
- We appreciate that the engagement of learning will look different at home to how it is in school. Teachers and staff can recommend methods of motivating pupils and your child's preferred learning style.
- We will encourage all parent/carers to punctuate work tasks with sensory breaks and for many children, fresh air and exercise will be very beneficial.
- Short sessions will be encouraged for most of our pupils, alongside the use of visual timetables to support learning routines with 'now and next' prompts for example.
- We will aim not to make home learning too difficult for parent/carers to manage.
- Please speak to your child's teacher if you need additional support or are finding any element of your child's home learning particularly difficult.

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, group 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 will continue to assess pupils against our Learning Pathways as far as possible.
- Pupils who are learning remotely face to face will be given direct verbal feedback at the end of that session in terms of progress that they have made, and that feedback will also be shared with you to ensure you are kept updated with how your child is doing.
- Feedback can also be given via the telephone to you if that is preferable and staff will ensure they maintain regular communication with you.
- Feedback can also be given on pupil's work via comments and Next Steps for Learning.
- All staff will continue to keep records of assessment for all pupils so that pupil progress can continue to be monitored
- We understand that for many of our pupils remote learning poses many challenges and their progress may not be the same as it perhaps would be in school, in a more 'normal' learning context.

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 SEND pupils 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 main priority will always be pupil wellbeing and safety. If your child is well and stable, we will request that you assist them with their home learning.

- Our pupils will often need an adult to scaffold their learning, but often once the adult has helped to set up and/or explain the task the pupil will be able to work independently.

- Staff will make it clear what learning needs support and when it is suitable for a pupil to complete a task independently.

- Staff will encourage parents to promote independent study where possible.

- When live learning is taking place we encourage parent/carers to let their child work on this independently where appropriate.

- All pupils will be supplied with log in and password details presented in a familiar format to make it user friendly so that they can access their online learning.

Remote Education for Self-isolating Pupils

If my child is not in school because they are self-isolating, how will their remote education differ from the approaches described above?

Individual pupils self-isolating will still be taught a planned and well-sequenced curriculum with meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects, including providing feedback.

It is hoped that pupils self-isolating will still be able to access their remote learning in the same way, but if this becomes too difficult the learning will then take the form of a school learning pack that will be delivered to you or sent home with your child to cover the period of time they are off isolating from school.

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate, but the majority of their peers remain in school, remote education provided may differ from the approach for the rest of their class/group, due to the challenges of teaching pupils both at home and in school.