



Downlands Community School Remote Education



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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?

Your child's class teacher will use our virtual learning platforms (Seesaw for FS1 - Y4, Google Classroom for Y5 - Y6) to set maths and English work. They will expect evidence of learning outcomes to be uploaded onto each child's Seesaw profile so that regular feedback can be provided. Support for technical problems will be on hand for parents via the school office (office@downlandsschool.org, 01258 453348). If you need any assistance with Seesaw, try using [Seesaw Help Center](#). It's a great resource for families.

Your child will also be told to take home any necessary exercise or text books that may allow for more independent learning in the short term.

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 will set work equivalent to the broad and balanced curriculum that is expected during face-to-face to teaching. Children will be expected to be engaged in learning activities for approximately 4½ hours of each school day* (*variable according to age - see below*), though this should be interspersed with opportunities for greater activity or relaxation, preferably outdoors, and we will offer suggestions for this also.

Each day, there will be activities linked to reading, writing and maths plus 2 other curriculum areas from the following:

- Science
- Humanities
- Music
- IT

- RE
- PSHE
- Art
- DT

Whilst we will endeavor to stick to the national curriculum to ensure a minimum disruption to your child’s learning, there will be a greater emphasis on practice and consolidation of skills and understanding. Also, some practical based subjects will be impacted, though we will sometimes suggest simple household equipment which will facilitate continued practical based learning, with safety considerations in mind.

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:

Phase	Learning hours needed each school day
FS1 (Pre-school)	There is no set time limit allocation with this age of children. However, each day there will be ideas suggested, in each of the learning areas of EYFS, to allow learning through play. Ideas will be set on Seesaw before 1000hrs each day.
FS2 (Reception)	4 x adult led activities for approximately 15-20 minutes each as set on Seesaw as well as everyday expectations included in the front of the home learning book such as name writing and reading.
KS1 (Y1 - Y2)	Children need to be working daily on set reading, spelling, English and maths learning activities (approximately 2 hours). As soon as children are in routine of completing essential core work, additional subjects reflecting the breadth of the curriculum will be added (additional 60 to 90 minutes)

Lower KS2 (Y3 - Y4)	Children will be set learning tasks that follow the existing weekly timetable, including maths and English lessons with topic based learning around the other curriculum areas. There will be approximately 3 hours of learning activities each day, interspersed with activities such as daily mile and mindfulness.
Upper KS2 (Y5 - Y6)	~6 hours (this is in alignment with the normal school day - please see timetable published on learning platform)

An example timetable for home learning and routines will be provided early on by your child's class teacher, early on after the decision for home learning has been made.

Accessing remote education

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

Seesaw

- <https://app.seesaw.me/#/login>

Google Classroom (Google Meet will take place here)

- <https://classroom.google.com>

IXL

- <https://uk.ixl.com/admin/students>

Sumdog

- <https://www.sumdog.com/en/> School Code Downlands1

TTRS

- <https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student> School Postcode DT11 8BG

Epic

- <https://www.getepic.com/sign-in>

Code.org

- https://studio.code.org/users/sign_in

Lexia

- <https://www.lexiacore5.com/register>

Read Theory

- <https://readtheory.org/auth/login>

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:

- The school has received a very limited amount of Google Chrome books for children who were eligible in summer 2020. The school will contact those families directly at the point of needing home education, with advice about loaning these additional pieces of school equipment.
- Any KS2 children who are asked to carry out home learning because of a COVID-19 outbreak, will automatically be offered the loan of the school iPad which they use in class. Apply [here](#) to loan an iPad.
- Any FS to KS1 children without access to IT equipment at home will be offered the loan of a school iPad, but supplies are limited and will be prioritised to those at most need. Apply [here](#) to loan an iPad.
- Any parent who is struggling to gain access to online learning resources, either through lack of tablet/computer or internet access, should get in touch with the school at the earliest opportunity. The school will provide paper learning alternatives until a digital solution can be provided. Such paper based learning will receive feedback from the teacher if left in the school reception area on a regular basis.

How will my child be taught remotely?

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

- For UKS2 pupils, live feedback and instruction via Google Meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday of each week
- For all pupils, recorded class feedback and instruction (video or audio) via Seesaw on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week, from their class teacher
- For all pupils, a daily recorded 'thought for the day' from the Headteacher, via Seesaw.
- References to 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
- 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?

It may be helpful to set up a workspace for your child in the home, with useful resources at hand. Some pupils have also found a timetable and set routines helpful for managing the expectations of home learning. An example timetable for home learning and routines will be provided early on by your child's class teacher, early on after the decision for home learning has been made.

Your child's class teacher/class TA will be looking for daily evidence of engagement with learning activities. They will also initially use the learning platform to communicate concerns with parents. Likewise, this medium should be the first port of call for concerned parents making contact with their child's class teacher.

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

Class teachers will expect to see daily engagement in the activities set. Where there are specific barriers to learning, this can be communicated directly to the teacher via Seesaw or phone contact with the school office. In such instances, the teacher will arrange a phone or video conference consultation with the parent and pupil to discuss specific issues.

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. Feedback will also be given in the following ways:

- Whole class feedback via recorded audio or film, 3 times a week (Seesaw)
- Whole class live feedback via Google Meet, 3 times a week (Google Classroom - UKS2 only)
- Teacher/Class TA affirmation via digital platform (short comments, emojis) on a daily basis, but not for every piece of work submitted. Teacher discretion expected.

Additional support for children 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:

- Live learning support sessions via Zoom with child's usual support TA
- Live learning support sessions via Zoom with child's class teacher
- Additional paper resources and learning tools/manipulatives

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?

Whilst your child will still be able to access work set via the digital learning platforms, feedback will be limited to the short comments and emojis on this platform, rather than the regular recorded, whole class messages referenced above. There will also be no daily thought for the day from the headteacher. There may also be fewer set tasks (hours per day) than that described above, though maths and English learning will be matched.