

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 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?

If a bubble is sent home in KS3, 4 or 5:

timetabled lessons will continue to take place and teachers will continue to teach their classes remotely from their classrooms using a Google meet, the teacher will issue instructions via Edulink and Google classroom to explain how the student can access the lesson from home

individual lessons will last for a maximum period of 45 minutes, the 45 minutes may not be all teacher led however the teacher will be available for the duration to support the students

the work will be set on Edulink and resources and activities will be posted on Google classroom if this is appropriate for the lesson

homework will continue to be set as normal

If the school is placed in lockdown:

lessons will be taught according to the timetable, (with the exception of KS3 PE) and homework will be set

lessons will be taught via 'Google meets' and resources will be placed on Google classroom

KS3-5 will receive a minimum of five hours teaching a day

devices will be available for those who need them (contact admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk to arrange collection)

the school will remain closed to the majority of students unless they meet the criteria for attendance outlined at the time of the lockdown

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, it is not possible to teach KS3 and 4 PE (Years 7-11) via Google meet. The rest of the KS3 curriculum and the curriculum for KS4 and 5 is being taught as normal.

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, 4 and 5	A minimum of 5 hours per day
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Accessing remote education

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

All lessons will be taught via Google meet and work and resources will be placed on Google classroom.

Students can find support from their teachers via their Google classroom using the private message function.

Students in Years 7-9 will all receive a refresher to Google classroom in their computing lessons in September.

Student surveys will be conducted to ensure that their views about remote learning are taken into consideration.

If a student has any issues using Google classroom or Edulink, they can access a series of 'How to' videos that can be found on the Coronavirus tab on the school website by clicking on the link <https://presdales.herts.sch.uk/remote-learning/>

Alternatively, students can email the IT support team on helpdesk@presdales.herts.sch.uk

Devices will be provided for all students who require them, these can be obtained by emailing admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk

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:

Devices will be provided for all students who require them, these can be obtained by emailing admin@presdales.herts.sch.uk

Help with IT related issues can be sought by emailing the IT team helpdesk@presdales.herts.sch.uk

Text books will be scanned in and uploaded to the classroom to avoid the need for printing, where this is not possible, printed materials will be sent home to those who need them

If a student does not have online access, work can be sent to teachers via email, the school website has a full list of teachers email addresses here: <https://presdales.herts.sch.uk/school-staff/>

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How will my child be taught remotely?

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

Lessons will be taught live, according to the timetable and will be taught using Google meet. Resources for the lesson will be placed on Google classroom and homework will be set.

Teachers will continue to use the normal resources that are available for their department as far as it is possible to do so. These might include work set from text books, resources from educational websites and any other resources that are appropriate for the lesson.

In addition to this, the teachers may make use of reputable educational websites including BBC Bitesize and the Oak Academy which is a national online classroom and has resources and lessons made by teachers especially for remote learning.

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?

Students are expected to attend registration at 8.45am and all lessons unless there is a valid reason for absence

Attendance at Google meets will be recorded and monitored

Any reason for absence needs to be given by emailing attendance@presdales.herts.sch.uk or by telephoning the school on 01920 462210

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

Parents and carers will be informed if a student does not attend registration and/or if they do not attend lessons

Teachers will contact parents and carers when a student does not attend two or more consecutive lessons and no reason has been given for absence

Heads of Year will monitor attendance and will contact parents/carers if needed to discuss reasons for non attendance

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:

Teachers will assess progress in lessons using a range of different techniques which might include questioning, quizzes, discussion activities, group work, pair work and reading written answers

Feedback on individual pieces of work will be given via Google classroom and will follow our assessment and feedback policy which can be found on the school website here <https://presdales.herts.sch.uk/school-policies/>

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:

All teachers are trained in supporting students with SEND needs and advice for supporting students during a period of lockdown has been shared by the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO)

For any queries regarding support for individual students, please email a students' class teacher or the SENCO on SENCO@presdales.herts.sch.uk

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?

If a student is self isolating or is absent in KS3, 4 and 5:

- they will be able to access the same curriculum as in school
- the work for the lesson will be posted on Google classroom for the student to access
- a message will be sent to the student via Edulink to alert the student to the work
- the student can also access work through their friends
- homework will continue to be set as normal