

Coronavirus (COVID-19): remote education information for parents and carers

During the current national lockdown, Mo Mowlam Academy has remained open. There are circumstances however where children have remained at home for various reasons relating to the Covid pandemic. In these circumstances, remote learning is provided. Where your child is self-isolating, they will be provided with remote education for the period they are off – information regarding this provision is also included in this document.

The remote curriculum

- Mo Mowlam staff will aim to provide the same curriculum at home as we do on the school site wherever possible
- Due to the nature of some activities in some subjects, we have made amendments to subject activities, e.g. reducing practical lessons which require specific resources or venues.
- In the event of individuals or groups of students having to self-isolate at short notice, we will aim to provide learning activities for the first day or two whilst we make the necessary arrangements for remote learning

Remote teaching time

- As Mo Mowlam educates students in KS2, KS3 and KS4 students will receive learning resources to provide them with 5 hours learning each day (in accordance with national guidelines)

We at Mo Mowlam understand that your child has an EHCP for SEMH and therefore are likely to have some barriers to learning. We understand that your role as a parent/carer is difficult at this time and you may have other children of different ages with their own home learning needs to consider. We are here to help and are happy to discuss any concerns or difficulties you are experiencing and can work together to hopefully identify solutions.

Remote learning approach

Remote learning is delivered in a variety of different ways, including the following:

- Printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. information booklets, worksheets etc)
- Textbooks and reading books students 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
- Online face to face sessions (1:1) with subject teachers

Feedback

In order for us to provide the best remote learning, we will continue to provide constructive feedback to ensure students are meeting the correct standards in their learning. We will use the following methods to ensure your child is learning efficiently and effectively:

- Asking students to submit work for marking by alerting school when work has been completed so that we can make arrangements for collection.
- Some work can be completed online or submitted by email.
- All completed work will be marked and feedback provided either by a call home or in the form of written feedback included in the next learning pack delivered to your home.

Accessing remote education

We are providing remote education by:

- Microsoft Teams
- The internal school email system
- Lexia (your child's log in details can be provided on request)
- MyMaths (your child's log in details can be provided on request)
- Times Tables Rock Stars (your child's log in details can be provided on request)
- The Oak Academy (DfE online learning resource)
- BBC Bitesize
- Various online platforms catered to individual pupils' / students' needs

Instructions about how to access Teams via a smartphone, a tablet, a laptop or on a games console have been developed and are available online or can be sent electronically by email on request.

A variety of options for students to complete their learning online via Teams are available and any difficulties can be discussed with the students tutor.

Face to face meetings with staff to access help or have additional learning is available and as we continue to develop this offer and see increased engagement we plan to hold whole tutor group sessions for learning and to offer socialisation.

We understand that some students may not have suitable online access at home. The following approaches are implemented to support students to access remote education:

If your child does not have access to the necessary technology for online learning it may be possible for them to have a loan of a device so that online learning can take place.

Please speak to your child's tutor, ring the school on 01642 779292 or email momowlam@horizonstrust.org.uk

We also understand that some students prefer to access their learning through hard copies of learning materials. We send home weekly work packs with high quality learning resources. These are either hand delivered by staff or posted using Royal Mail postal service.

In addition you can request all learning resources and activities be sent via email to either the students internal email address or the email address of their parent or carer.

All completed work will be collected or can be returned via Royal mail.

We strongly encourage you to get in touch if you believe your child may struggle or is struggling with accessing remote education.

Remote education for self-isolating students

Following the current national lockdown, in the case that your child is required to self-isolate due to having symptoms of coronavirus or through being a close contact of someone with a confirmed case of coronavirus, remote education will continue to be offered in much the same way as now.

School will make contact with you and your child and re-establish those systems which you and your child found most successful.

Contacting the school

We will provide you with all the details you may need when contacting the school while your child is learning from home. When contacting the school, here are four important things both you and your child need to remember:

1. When on a video call, sit in a suitable area, e.g. a living room with a neutral background. It is advisable to blur the background or add a different background (options available on Teams) if possible to provide optimum privacy for the child and others in the household.
2. When on a video call, wear suitable clothing and ensure your conduct is professional.
3. Understand that staff may not always be able to help, but they will try their best.
4. Remember to act in the same manner as if the school were open, respecting everyone involved.

Additional information

Additional information you need to be aware of includes the following:

- The school will provide you with all important contact information for key members of staff, including your child's teachers and the Principal.
- Any concerns regarding the safety of your child should be directed to the school's designated safeguarding leads;
Rachel Glover (Principal); Lesley Watts (Vice Principal); Claire Naisbitt (Vice Principal); Linda Bonnard (HLTA)
- Government guidance clearly states that parents/carers are able to make a decision about whether they send their child to school or keep them at home and that attendance figures would not be monitored. However, it is expected that while a child is working from home they do engage in remote learning. If your child does not engage in their learning and this approach is continued despite attempts to engage them school may strongly encourage them to come back into school.

- Teachers will monitor work completed to ensure your child is still completing set work and they will make regular telephone calls to the home to offer support where necessary.

Supporting your child's learning

Top tips for supporting your child while they learn from home:

- Keep to a routine as much as possible so your child knows what to expect.
- Keep active – ensure your child is getting enough exercise and incorporate this into their daily routine.
- Use different methods to assist learning, e.g. online programmes and documentaries.
- Stay sociable – organise with other parents to arrange video calls with your child's friends so they can stay connected during social hours.