

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.

We recognise that pupils at Step by Step may not be able to access remote education without being fully supported and supervised by adults at home. We acknowledge the difficulties and challenges this may place on families and we will work closely with parents and carers to provide meaningful, high-quality remote education that is achievable and manageable for both pupils and families.

Pupils at Step by Step will be provided with remote education when:

- they are required to self-isolate due to being identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive case
- they are shielding (pupils identified as clinically extremely vulnerable)
- we have to close classes, bubbles or school on government/public health advice or based on our covid contingency plan
- they remain at home during local/national restrictions on parental request.

Pupils will not have to complete home learning if they are self-isolating due to being unwell with Covid-19 symptoms. Pupils are only required to engage in remote learning if they are well enough to do so.

The pandemic continues to place many additional pressures and challenges on teaching staff, therapists and school leaders. As a special school, Step by Step School remains open during national lockdown and restrictions in line with government guidelines and advice. When pupils are unable to attend for reasons outlined above, the school will additionally offer individually focused remote education for pupils for the duration of their time at home whilst continuing to deliver face-to-face education to the majority of pupils' onsite.

The Remote Curriculum

Class Leaders will contact families during the first three days of transferring to remote learning to discuss how remote learning and therapy will be delivered, to propose an individualised remote learning plan and to draft a daily/weekly timetable.

Pupils have immediate access to Purple Mash, Earwig and there are teaching videos on the Step by Step You Tube channel. We have also published a list of useful online resources on our website. Class Leaders will recommend activities to complete from the online platforms (where appropriate) and will also suggest activities based on pupil's individualised programs including daily living, academic and functional tasks.

Each pupil's remote learning plan will be individualised and will take into consideration:

- pupil's age
- pupil's level of independence and abilities
- support and supervision pupil requires to engage in learning activities
- access to IT equipment and internet
- pupil's current and already mastered academic and therapy targets
- functional and daily living skills targets
- opportunities for exercise and creative learning.

Where possible and appropriate, the learning targets and activities provided are linked to each pupil's EHCP targets and current Individualised Education Plans/Personalised Learning Plans. Remote learning will also incorporate aspects of the school curriculum; such as, activities linked to curriculum topics.

Remote Teaching and Study Time Each Day

Class Leaders will work closely with families to establish a daily/weekly timetable for each pupil. From the start we encourage parents/carers to keep to pupils' normal routines e.g. getting up and getting dressed at the same time as on school days. It will be important to differentiate weekdays from weekends on the timetable, and also indicating to pupils when school work is finished each day, to support them to understand the difference between study time and home life.

Pupils should ideally spend some of their day engaging in learning activities provided by the school. The amount of time each pupil engages in learning will be individualised and opportunities for frequent breaks and physical exercise will also be encouraged.

Once a week, pupils will be set learning activities for each day, to complete either independently or with the support and supervision of parents/carers.

Where parents and carers require advice, support or guidance, their child's Class Leader and therapists can be contacted via email. We are happy to arrange meetings via a phone call, Microsoft Teams or Zoom to discuss any challenges and difficulties parents/carers may encounter.

Accessing Remote Education

Class Leaders will discuss with parents and carers how pupils will access remote education. Learning activities and resources will be provided in a variety of ways, depending on the most suitable method for each family. For example, learning activities and resources can be posted, emailed or shared via our learning platform Earwig.

We recognise that some pupils may not have suitable devices and access to internet at home. Parents/carers can raise this with their child's Class Leader during their initial remote learning planning meeting, if they require support with technology for their child.

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

- weekly individualised learning packs with daily work/activities provided
- recorded teaching (e.g. video/audio recordings made by tutors, teachers & therapists)
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)
- Step by Step School YouTube channel including activities for pupils
- Sensory activities, interactive sites and outdoor activities
- live teaching (online lessons), where appropriate

Class staff at Step by Step carefully design the program of remote learning, so that it meets the individual needs of each pupil.

Engagement and Feedback

Regular communication between parents/carers and class teams will be required to support pupils effectively. Parents can provide feedback on pupil's engagement, progress and any challenges in a variety of ways. They can add photos, videos or comments to their child's Earwig timeline, email Class Leaders or feedback verbally during phone calls or virtual meetings.

Class staff will contact families regularly for an update on pupils' remote learning. We ask that parents indicate which assigned activities were completed each week, the level of support they provided to their child and progress made. Records of all communication will be kept on the pupils file.

Where pupils complete independent work and worksheets, these can be returned to the school either via post for the attention of the Class Leader, via email to the pupil's Class Leader or via Earwig where this is appropriate. In the case of virtual lessons, the tutors/therapists will provide direct feedback to pupils and parents/carers during the session in line with the school's teaching approach. Tutors/Therapists will record and monitor data and will make the necessary adaptations to learning objectives.

Class Leaders/therapists can discuss pupil progress with parents/carers either via email or virtual meetings (phone or video calls). Class Leaders/therapists will advise on next steps or strategies that can be implemented at home to support learning and progress.

Online Safety

We expect parents to provide support and supervision to pupils when they are completing learning online or accessing a device that has the functionality of internet use. We ask that parents set up appropriate parental controls on devices owned by them, to safeguard pupils. We expect families to comply with Step by Step's Acceptable Use policy.

In certain circumstances, the school may be able to loan devices to the pupil to use. Any devices will have the appropriate monitoring and filtering controls installed. Parents are required to sign a loan agreement and the device must be returned to school on the first day of the pupil's return to school.

Remote Learning: Useful Resources

Please find below a collection of resources that you may find useful to support your child's learning from home. In addition to the resources provided below and in the event that the school is required to close, Class Leaders will also be in direct contact with parents and carers in order to provide an individualised remote learning plan and timetable for your child (See Remote Education Provision: Information for Parents for more information)

Step by Step School's YouTube Page

This includes stories, cooking and PE sessions delivered by the curriculum teachers and group leaders.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOCPTBPO5ECIDKfNaNX0dCw>

Earwig Academic Timelines

Please login to see examples of some of the activities and teaching programs your child is working on at school.

<https://earwig.uk.com/>

Purple Mash

Purple Mash is an online learning platform that can be accessed on the iPad or laptop.

<https://www.purplemash.com/login>

Twinkl

Twinkl is an online website that provides schools with a large range of different resources (worksheets, activities, arts and crafts and more). It covers many different subjects including Maths, English, Science, Art, ICT and Design and Technology. During recent months, due to the Covid crisis, Twinkl has provided parents with free login details.

www.twinkl.co.uk/offer

Register as 'New to Twinkl' and enter the following offer code, this will give you free access to all Twinkl resources.

Offer code: UKTWINKLHELPS

Communication and Sensory Resources and Ideas

Step by Step Story sessions with Sarah-Jane:

We're Going on a Bear Hunt <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBnxVjd0rps>

The Very Hungry Caterpillar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aOQMDTH7Hw>

Singing Hands use singing and Makaton signs to tell stories and sing nursery rhymes and pop songs:

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=singing+hands

Make your own sensory bottle at home:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7zp7KbxbKY>

Physical Activities

Step by Step PE sessions with Nicole:

Warm up to music <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PASOf1aIn-8>

Circuit Training <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xoUPi4FRrM>

Yoga with Adrienne is a channel on YouTube that offers different yoga classes for children:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLui6Eyny-Uzx8YZ3Pw0r6jq6UuwYW61Rj>