



Remote Learning at Firwood High School

In September 2020, all our classes returned to full-time education following the national lockdown in March 2020 due to COVID-19.

Although we hope that the majority of our students will now have an uninterrupted experience, there is the possibility that an individual student, a class bubble, or indeed the whole school, will need to self-isolate for a period of time. We have therefore put in place a plan for remote learning so that all students can continue with their education. Remote learning will be shared with families when they are absent due to authorised COVID-related absence.

This meets the expectations set out in the DfE guidance 'Remote Education Support.

What is the Remote Learning offer?

Remote learning provides an opportunity for students and teachers to remain connected and engaged with the content while working from their homes.

Opportunities for remote learning have become essential during the pandemic, and teachers at Firwood High School have worked creatively to adapt the curriculum offer, providing high-quality learning opportunities, both through the lockdown period and where either themselves, or students, have been isolating.

The key aim of remote curriculum is to keep students engaged in learning opportunities, and minimise the impact of disruption to the normal school day. Although our remote learning offer is relatively new, we are striving to ensure accessibility so that there is seamless provision between both home and school, and any gaps in learning are minimised. Teachers are continuously developing ideas, resources and content in response to feedback from families.

The DfE are encouraging schools to keep the remote learning offer as simple and accessible as possible, and to ensure the offer is adapted in response to the individual context of each school. Further guidance encourages any remote learning offer to align as closely as possible to school provision.

Like many schools across the country, Firwood High School is facing the challenge of delivering a coherent curriculum to students both at home and in school, while maintaining social distancing for staff and pupils.

We recognise that without the specialist teaching resources we have available to us in school that this presents a challenge for elements of home-learning; however, we are committed to ensure the highest-quality provision.

We have agreed that high-quality remote learning will include these features:

- Remote learning is an integral part of a broad and balanced curriculum sequence planned for students who require temporary access to learning from home.
- Where students are accessing a remote learning as a substitute for the in-school curriculum, the programme should cover enough core learning opportunities to minimise disruption to learning.
- Students should have frequent interaction with teachers in some form.
- The specific needs of different groups of students are taken into account when designing the remote provision, including access to adult support and suitable electronic devices/broadband.
- The learning of new content is supported through frequent, clear explanations, delivered by a teacher either through recordings or high-quality externally produced materials, including Oak Academy.
- Lessons and activities will be shared via the the **Class DoJo** App (already used by the majority of families) Please let us know if you have any access issues.
- Some learning opportunities, such as assemblies, PE and music lessons, will be shared via zoom.
- Paper-based learning packs are also available on request.
- All staff engaged with remote learning will be alert to safeguarding and data protection regulations.
- Links to teachers' appraisal targets 2020-2021

If a student does not have access to a computer/laptop and/or the internet, the school will do all it can to support students in other ways including providing work packs or other learning resources.

Where funding can be accessed, remote devices (e.g. laptops) and/or 4G connections will be sought, particularly for disadvantaged children.

Feedback from students, families and teachers will be used to help us improve the remote learning offer. We are devising a simple questionnaire to capture thoughts and ideas.