



Introduction

This policy is written for parents/carers and outlines how we will provide remote education when national or local restrictions require a 'bubble' or most children to remain at home (e.g. where the school is closed to all but vulnerable children and those of key workers, or where the school is open to all children but a 'bubble' is self-isolating). *For details of what to expect when individual children are self-isolating, please see the end of this document.*

This policy is founded on DfE guidance, best practice and research. It will be kept under ongoing review to reflect the needs and circumstances of our school community.

Remote education is defined by Ofsted as "any learning that happens outside of the classroom, with the teacher not present in the same location as the pupils. This includes both digital and non-digital remote solutions."

What are Meridian's remote education aims?

Underpinned by our whole school values, we are committed to working in partnership with parents/carers to provide high quality remote education whilst children are at home so that children:

- have ongoing access to Meridian's broad and balanced curriculum and can continue learning;
- have opportunities to revise, consolidate and develop both new and existing skills and knowledge across a range of subjects;
- can remain engaged in the learning process;
- continue to develop the Meridian Learning Muscles (curiosity, persistence, resourcefulness, focus, reflectiveness) which will support them in becoming independent, resilient learners;
- can maintain regular contact and relationships with their peers and teaching staff.

It is not possible, or indeed necessarily desirable, to replicate the full Meridian learning experience at home during a pandemic. We recognise that families have a range of personal circumstances and that children are individuals. As such, we will provide a mix of different types of learning opportunities (videos, live teaching and independent tasks) which allow some flexibility in terms of when and how children can engage with these.

We believe in an equitable approach - one which recognises that children need different levels of support from the school - and through our knowledge of families and regular contact with them, we will endeavour to target support appropriately. Similarly, parents/carers are encouraged to contact us via telephone, email or Google Classroom if they need support or have any questions.

What will my child be taught when they are learning at home?

Your child will be taught the content of the Meridian curriculum with a focus on key knowledge and skills within each subject. Where appropriate, activities will be adapted to suit home learning (for example there may be a focus on drawing in art rather than printing). As closely as possible, remote learning will mirror that which is being taught to children in the school building.

For children in Reception - Y6, teachers will deliver English, Maths and one other subject each day, with a balance of subjects over the week. For children in Nursery, teachers will upload a range of learning activities from across the Foundation Stage curriculum each week - parents can choose the ones they would like to do with their child.

We would also encourage **all** children to read and exercise each day as well as practise their mental maths - some suggested activities are provided on the school website and children will be signposted to these via Google Classroom.

How will my child be taught remotely?

Your child will be taught in a variety of ways via the **online platform, Google Classroom**. In Reception to Year 6:

- Teachers will upload activities to Google Classroom at the start of each day;
- One activity will be supported by a video - this will be recorded by a Meridian teacher or provided by an online platform such as Oak National Academy, BBC Bitesize or White Rose Maths;
- Activities will be provided as Google Slides and modelled examples/visuals will be used to support children's understanding;
- Children will be able to interact with teaching staff via the Google Classroom chat feature - asking questions and receiving feedback about their learning;
- Children will be invited to two Google Meets each week where they will benefit from live interaction with teaching staff and their peers.

In Nursery, activities will be planned to encourage active learning through playing, exploring and investigating. Teachers will upload a range of learning activities from across the Foundation Stage curriculum at the start of each week to Google Classroom - parents/carers can choose the ones they would like to do with their children. Children will be invited to a whole class Google Meet each day where they will benefit from live interaction with teaching staff and their peers. Staff will also upload a recorded story or rhyme each week to support children's learning.

All children will receive a telephone call from staff once a week. As well as pastoral support, this will enable parents and children to reflect on learning successes and challenges and gain feedback and guidance. In addition, we will support children's personal and social development by uploading an assembly video to Google Classroom each week.

Where appropriate, SEND and vulnerable children will receive additional phone calls and/or Google Meets (e.g. focussed on gaps in their learning or EHCP targets) and work will be differentiated.

How will my child access Google Classroom?

Each child has their own login details provided by the teacher at the start of the school year. Children are shown how to access Google Classroom in class and it is used in Y2 upwards for weekly homework during full school opening. Instructions on how to access Google Classroom are available on the school website. If you need any support with logging on, you can contact the school office.

What if my child can't access Google Classroom?

We encourage engagement in Google Classroom wherever possible as this enables daily interaction between children and staff and allows teachers to give children regular feedback on their learning. Please let us know if you do not have access to the internet or a laptop at home so that we can help (e.g. through a laptop loan or provision of a router). We can also provide paper copies of the week's home learning - please contact the school office to request this. If you are not self-isolating, you can collect this from school or we can post/deliver it to you.

How long should my child spend on home learning?

In line with government guidance, we will provide approximately 3 hours of remote learning for KS1 and 4 hours for Key Stage 2. Reception children will receive approximately 2 hours of remote learning which is best managed in short bursts of around 15 minutes.

Build in regular breaks and create a routine that works for you and your family. All children work at a different pace - if your child works quickly, they can ask their teacher for additional tasks. If you are struggling to motivate your child, please contact the school for suggestions.

What expectations does the school have for my child's engagement in remote learning and the support that parents/carers should provide at home?

Ideally, children should log onto Google Classroom each day and complete as much of the home learning provided as possible. By working through the sequence of lessons, children will be able to build on their knowledge and skills more successfully. Similarly, wherever possible, children should attend all of the Google Meets they are invited to. If we have any concerns about your child's engagement in remote learning, we will contact you and work to solve this problem together.

We recognise that parental commitments and personal circumstances mean that parents/carers have varying capacity to support remote education. Please support as and when you can. For children who are

struggling to access online learning, we will endeavour to provide additional support from school such as more frequent phone calls home. We can also support families by loaning laptops.

My child cannot access home learning without a high level of adult support. What should I do?

We recognise that younger children and those with SEND may find it harder to access remote learning without adult support. We also recognise that many parents are working from home and/or caring for more than one child. Please support your child to do as much of the home learning provided as is possible (for them and you!). We will endeavour to provide additional live teaching sessions and/or phone calls to vulnerable children and those on the SEND register where appropriate (e.g. SALT sessions).

Get in touch with us if you need reassurance or support - if you leave a message with the school office, the SENCO/Lead ToD or class teacher will get in touch with you.

How does my child record their home learning?

Children don't have to evidence every single piece of work they do. However, in order to provide feedback and assess children's progress, we need to see something. Children/parents can upload work to Google Classroom, email it to the school office or post it to school. This could be in the form of a photo of work completed, a short video or a piece of work on paper.

For most KS2 lessons, a Google Doc or editable copy of the slides will be provided for children to record their work, and the majority of children will be able to 'turn in' this work themselves. Children of any age may prefer to work on loose paper or by writing in an exercise book. If you need to borrow stationery such as pens, pencils or need an exercise book, please let the school office know.

How will you assess my child's work and progress and give feedback on their learning?

- A member of teaching staff will log on to your child's Google Classroom each day to ask and answer children's questions via the chat feature;
- We will provide feedback on work uploaded to Google Classroom twice a week;
- Children will receive a phone call from a member of staff once a week to talk about their learning and offer advice and support (for children who are finding it difficult to engage in remote learning, this will be more often);
- Children will be invited to a live Google Meet with teaching staff once a week with a focus on learning (e.g. story, maths or phonics session) and questioning will enable staff to assess children's understanding and feedback on their learning;
- There will be a whole class Google Meet each week where teachers can offer whole class feedback on learning and a whole school newsletter each week to celebrate children's learning;
- Short quizzes and activities such as PhonicsPlay and Times Table Rockstars may be provided to support teacher and self-assessment.

From gathering information in the ways described above, teachers will make appropriate adjustments to their planning.

What to expect when the school and bubble is open to all children but my child is self-isolating

- *Parents/carers should notify the school office that their child is isolating.*
- *From the end of the first day of self-isolation and from the start of each day thereafter, the teacher will upload three activities each day to Google Classroom - English, Maths and one other subject with a balance of subjects over the week. Work will mirror learning taking place in the classroom as closely as possible.*
- *We would encourage children to read and exercise each day as well as practise their mental maths - some suggested activities are provided on the school website.*
- *Teachers may also signpost your child to Oak Academy online lessons or similar resources such as BBC Bitesize.*
- *Teachers will provide feedback on work uploaded to Google Classroom twice a week.*
- *Children will receive a phone call from a member of staff once a week to talk about their learning and offer advice and support.*

And finally... If you would like to discuss any aspect of remote learning, staff will ring each week or you can phone us on 020 8858 3572 or email us at sao@meridian.greenwich.sch.uk.