

Remote Learning



Remote Education at Stanley School

Last updated: September 2025

Next review date: September 2027

Our Commitment to Remote Education for Our Pupils

While we are not legally required to provide remote learning, we recognise its importance in ensuring continuity of education when circumstances prevent pupils from attending school in person. At Stanley School, we understand that our pupils have profound and complex needs, and most cannot access traditional online learning. Our remote education provision is designed around what we know works for our pupils and their families.

This document sets out our approach to remote education and what you can expect if your child needs to learn from home.

When We Provide Remote Education

We may provide remote education in the following circumstances:

Whole or partial school closure

- During severe weather conditions (such as snow days)
- If we cannot open the school safely
- Where opening would contradict government guidance (such as during a public health crisis)
- If our school site is affected by issues such as RAAC, remote learning will only be used as a last resort where all other options for face-to-face education have been exhausted

Individual pupil absence

We may offer remote education to individual pupils who cannot physically attend school but can continue some learning, such as:

- Pupils with an infectious illness who are well enough to engage with activities at home
- Pupils recovering from an operation or injury

Important considerations for our pupils In exceptional circumstances, if a pupil's attendance is affected by their special educational needs or a mental health issue, we may consider offering remote education. This will only be:

- Part of a plan to reintegrate the pupil back into school

- Offered if it won't adversely affect the pupil's return to school
- Regularly reviewed with clear time limits and the aim to return the pupil to in-person education with appropriate support

Before offering remote education to an individual pupil, we will ensure that the school, parents/carers, the pupil (where appropriate), relevant medical professionals, and the local authority (for pupils with EHC plans or who have a social worker) all agree to this arrangement.

Our Approach to Remote Learning

We know our pupils learn best through:

- Sensory experiences
- Familiar routines and environments
- Direct interaction with trusted adults
- Multi-sensory engagement

We recognise that most of our pupils cannot access traditional online learning.

Our remote education provision is therefore designed to be practical, accessible, and family-friendly.

What Remote Learning Looks Like for Our Pupils

Pre-recorded sensory sessions

We will create and share short, pre-recorded videos that families can watch together. These may include:

- Attention Autism sessions - Familiar bucket activities led by your child's class team
- Sensory stories - Stories with sensory elements that you can recreate at home
- Music and movement sessions - Songs, rhymes and movement activities
- Massage and relaxation - Guided sensory regulation activities
- Hello and goodbye videos - Messages from familiar staff to maintain connection

These videos are designed to:

- Be short (typically 5-15 minutes) so they're manageable for families
- Feature familiar staff members your child knows and trusts
- Use familiar songs, objects, and routines from school

- Be watched multiple times - there's no pressure to watch them at a specific time
- Support you to recreate activities at home, rather than replace your role

Home activity packs We will provide physical resource packs that may include:

- Sensory materials (textured items, scented objects, visual stimuli)
- Objects of reference linked to video content
- Simple activity cards with photos showing what to do
- Familiar toys or resources from school (on loan)
- Communication aids (symbols, photos, objects)
- Items for cause and effect activities

Personalised learning activities For each pupil, we will suggest:

- Simple activities matched to their EHCP outcomes
- Sensory activities appropriate for their sensory profile
- Communication opportunities throughout the day
- Self-care and independence skills to practise
- Ideas for movement and physical activity

Realistic Expectations About Remote Learning

We want to be honest with you:

- Remote learning cannot replicate what we do in school
- We cannot provide the specialist equipment, environments, and expertise that your child accesses at school
- You are not expected to be a teacher, therapist, or teaching assistant
- Your child's wellbeing and your family's wellbeing are the priority

What we're aiming for:

- Maintaining connection between your child and their school community
- Supporting you with ideas for meaningful activities at home
- Keeping some structure and routine where possible
- Preventing regression in key skills where we can
- Supporting your child's sensory and emotional regulation

Time expectations

Rather than setting hours of learning, we suggest:

- Watching 1-2 short videos per day (if your child can engage with this)

- Doing 2-3 simple activities from the pack
- Building these into your family's existing routines
- Taking breaks whenever needed
- Stopping if your child becomes distressed or dysregulated

Quality over quantity - A few minutes of meaningful engagement is better than hours of activities that don't work for your child.

How You'll Receive Remote Learning Materials

Video content We will share pre-recorded videos through:

- Class Dojo or Schools you tube
- Videos will be sent via dojo message or parent portal
- You can watch these on any device (phone, tablet, computer, TV)
- Videos will remain available so you can watch them multiple times

Physical resources

- We will prepare personalised activity packs for your child
- You can collect these from school at [insert time/location]
- Or we can arrange delivery/posting if you cannot collect
- All resources are on loan and should be returned when your child returns to school

Communication and support

- Your child's class team will contact you regularly via class dojo or telephone call
- We will check how things are going and adjust our approach based on your feedback
- You can contact us at any time if you need help or have questions

If Your Child Cannot Engage with Videos

We understand that some pupils may not be able to watch or engage with video content due to:

- Attention and focus difficulties
- Sensory sensitivities to screens
- Medical needs

If this applies to your child, we will:

- Focus on providing tactile and physical resources
- Offer audio-only content (e.g., familiar voices, songs, sounds)
- Provide detailed activity guides with photos for you to follow
- Maintain connection through regular phone calls
- Send personalised voice messages or recordings from familiar staff

Supporting You as Parents and Carers

We understand that this is challenging. Supporting a child with profound and complex needs at home, without the specialist support available at school, is incredibly demanding.

Our commitment to you:

- We will keep our expectations realistic and achievable
- We will listen to your feedback and adjust our approach
- We will celebrate any engagement, no matter how small
- We will support you to prioritise your child's wellbeing and your family's wellbeing
- We will remind you that you're doing your best in difficult circumstances

You can contact us for:

- Ideas for managing specific behaviours
- Advice on positioning and handling
- Suggestions for sensory activities
- Support with communication strategies
- Help using any equipment we've sent home
- Just to talk and share how things are going

Remember:

- It's okay if your child doesn't engage with the activities
- It's okay to have difficult days
- It's okay to focus on basic care and keeping everyone safe
- It's okay to ask for help
- You know your child best - trust your instincts

Working with Therapists and Other Professionals

During remote learning, we will continue to work with the therapists and professionals who support your child:

Speech and Language Therapy

- We will share communication strategies and activities
- Videos may include communication opportunities modelled by staff
- We can arrange remote consultations with the therapist if needed

Occupational Therapy

- We will provide sensory activities matched to your child's sensory profile
- We can offer advice on positioning and equipment use at home
- Sensory regulation strategies will be included in our guidance

Physiotherapy

- We will share appropriate movement activities and stretches
- We will provide guidance on safe positioning
- We can arrange remote consultations with the physiotherapist if needed

Medical needs

- We will maintain contact regarding any medical needs or changes
- We can liaise with health professionals as needed
- Please keep us informed of any changes to your child's health or medication

Safeguarding and Keeping in Touch

Our safeguarding commitment

Even during remote learning, safeguarding remains our top priority. We will:

- Maintain regular contact with all families
- Follow up if we cannot reach you
- Be alert to any concerns about your child's welfare
- Work with other agencies if we have concerns
- Continue to follow our child protection procedures

If you have concerns Please contact us immediately if:

- You're struggling to keep your child safe at home
- You have safeguarding concerns about your child
- You need additional support from other services
- Your family circumstances have changed

Keeping in touch

We will contact you:

- At least twice per week via class dojo/telephone call
- More frequently if you need additional support

- To check how remote learning is working for your family
- To celebrate successes and share positive moments

You can contact us at any time via:

What We Need from You

Please help us by:

- Letting us know what's working and what isn't
- Being honest about what's manageable for your family
- Telling us if you need different types of support
- Sharing any successes or positive moments
- Keeping us informed about your child's wellbeing
- Collecting or arranging collection of activity packs
- Returning borrowed resources when your child returns to school

We don't expect you to:

- Follow a strict timetable
- Complete all activities every day
- Teach your child in the way we do at school
- Have specialist knowledge or skills
- Manage without support

Free School Meals

Where pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals are receiving remote education, we will work with our catering team to:

- Issue food vouchers if available

Please contact the school office if you have questions about free school meal provision during remote learning.

Examples of What Remote Learning Might Look Like

Example daily routine (flexible and adaptable):

Morning:

- Watch a short "hello" video from your child's class team (5 minutes)
- Do a sensory activity from the pack (10-15 minutes)
- Normal family routine (breakfast, personal care, etc.)

Midday:

- Watch a short Attention Autism or sensory story video (10 minutes)
- Try a simple activity suggested in the pack
- Normal family routine (lunch, rest time, etc.)

Afternoon:

- Movement or music activity (using video or activity card)
- Free play with sensory resources from the pack
- Normal family routine

Remember: This is just an example. Do what works for your family and your child.