

REMOTE EDUCATION POLICY 2025/26

Introduction

This policy outlines the circumstances in which remote education may be offered to students at Rochester Independent College (RIC). It has been updated in response to the 'Providing remote education: Non statutory guidance for schools' DfE, August 2024.

Prioritising Attendance

Attendance is essential for students to get the most out of their educational experience, including for their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. When a student is absent, the college will always seek to overcome the barriers of attendance and provide support for the student to attend, regularly reviewing any barriers with the student, parents and carers and, if appropriate, a relevant medical professional.

Remote education will never be viewed as an equal alternative to attendance in college or something which can be provided effectively alongside face-to-face teaching.

Remote education will not typically be provided in circumstances where the college has granted an exceptional request for a student to miss college during term time in accordance with the college's *Attendance Policy*. Students absent from school and receiving remote education still need to be marked as absent in the register. We will continue to record student absence using the most appropriate code.

Scenarios where Remote Education is considered

The college will consider providing remote education in proportion to the length of absence and disruption to students' learning in exceptional circumstances when in-person attendance for some or all students is either not possible or is contrary to government/local authority guidance, but students are able to continue learning.

Except for occasional, scheduled 'independent learning', remote education will only ever be considered as a last resort where a decision has already been made that attendance at college is not possible.

Circumstances where it might not be possible for students to receive in person education include:

- college closure or restriction on attendance, where college access for students is restricted.
- individual cases where a student is unable to physically attend college but is able and well enough to continue their education remotely.



3.1 College Closures or Restrictions on Attendance

After exploring all options to ensure the college remains open to all students, there may still be some exceptional occasions when it is not possible to open safely, or where opening would contradict guidance from the government/local authority. If restricting attendance for students is the only viable option, the college will consider providing remote education to help students stay on track with the education they would normally receive.

3.2 Student Cannot Attend college but is Able to Learn (Individual Case Review)

Provision of remote education is usually a short-term solution and might include students:

- recovering from short-term infectious illnesses,
- preparing for or recovering from surgery,
- recovering from injuries where attending college could hinder their recovery.
- Who require specific mental health intervention

3.3 Scheduled 'Independent Learning'

In some exceptional cases, these circumstances might also include students whose attendance has been affected by a special educational need or disability (SEND) or a mental health issue. In these circumstances, and after the student's absence from college has been established, the college will consider providing students with remote education on a case-by-case basis. This would be part of a reintegration plan and only when judged that providing remote education would not adversely affect the student's physical return to college.

Where an absent individual is offered a form of remote education, it should not be expected that this will entail hybrid provision (access to live / interactive teaching).

In cases of individual absence, the provision of remote education will only ever be made as a short-term solution allowing absent students to keep on track with their education and stay connected to their teachers. It does not reduce the importance of bringing that absence to an end as soon as possible.

Students with long-term medical conditions or any other physical or mental health needs affecting attendance may require additional support to continue their education.

Providing Remote Education

Work provided during periods of remote education aims to be high quality, meaningful, ambitious and cover an appropriate range of subjects allowing students to keep on track with their education.



If in limited circumstances a student merits access to remote education, staff will post each day's lesson work on Google Classroom by the end of the following day. When doing so, the college will be mindful of the individual needs and circumstances of the student(s) and their families. This includes, but is not limited to:

- consideration of age, stage of development and independent study skills,
- any SEND or other additional needs the students might have,
- screen time, making reasonable allowances for adequate breaks for students and staff during digital remote education.
- There is no expectation that a teacher uses a Google Meet for online teaching if a student/students in their class are learning remotely but they may choose to do so if they wish.

Students who are away from college because they are too unwell to attend will not receive remote education, as their focus should be on rest and recuperation so that they can return to college more quickly. In these instances, individual students are expected to be proactive in catching up with work missed on their return. Additional support may be given by subject teachers, Directors of Study or Head of School.

Delivering Remote Education Safely

Keeping children safe online is essential. The college will follow its Online Safety Policy in regards to safeguarding and remote education to protect students online during any period of remote education.

The college understands that children can be at risk of harm inside and outside of the college, inside and outside of home and online. The college's remote education provision will consider systems for checking, daily, whether students are safe at home and engaging with their remote education.

Remote Education for students with SEND

If students with SEND are not able to attend college and merit access to remote education, the college will put in place an appropriate curriculum, teaching and support that will enable the student to continue learning effectively. The college will work collaboratively with families to put in place reasonable adjustments appropriate to the individual and their level of need.

Remote Education during a Fixed Term Suspension

Any student suspension will be made in line with the college's Behaviour Policy and Disciplinary Procedure.



Students who have been issued with a fixed term suspension will be expected to remain on track with their work for the duration of the suspension period. Staff will post each day's lesson work on Google Classroom by the end of the following day. After a period of suspension, a student is expected to attend full-time.

Digital Access

Matters of concern should always be raised with a student's Director of Study or Head of School, but for specific IT queries, parents/carers and students can contact the IT Department directly: ITServices@rochester-college.org.uk

Associated Policies

Attendance Policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Online Safety policy

Critical Incident Policy

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