

Remote education provision: information for parents and independent trainees

YMCA West Kent Horizon Project will endeavor to remain open as much as possible during the pandemic, in line with Department for Education guidelines for Educational Providers whose learners are classed as vulnerable, and / or having Education & Health Care Plans. However, there may be times when Horizon has to close temporarily.

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to Horizon trainees (students) 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.

For details of what to expect where individual trainees are self-isolating, please see the final section of this page.

The remote curriculum: what is taught to trainees at home

A trainee's first day or two of being educated remotely might look different from our standard approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a potential longer period of remote teaching – either for the entire cohort, or for individuals.

What should my Young Person expect from immediate remote education in the first day or two of trainees being sent home?

Horizon trainees will be emailed on their Horizon email accounts with relevant work to complete in all areas of our curriculum: Construction (theory), English, Maths and PSD (Personal & Social Development). This may include logging on to our English / Maths Functional Skills Platform (BKSB), email attachments with printable worksheets, and links to videos.

Following the first few days of remote education, will my Young Person be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were at Horizon?

We teach the same curriculum remotely as we do at Horizon. The only exception is that, naturally, the practical construction work normally undertaken in our

workshop can only be done when the centre is open and trainees are able to attend.

Remote teaching and study time each day

How long can I expect work set by Horizon to take my child each day?

We expect that remote education (including remote teaching and independent work) will take trainees broadly 1 hour 30 minutes each day.

Accessing remote education

How will my Young Person access any online remote education you are providing?

Instructions on the work needed to be completed at home will be sent to trainees via their Horizon email account. This may include being asked to log on to our Functional Skills platform, BKSB.

If my Young Person does not have digital or online access at home, how will you support them to access remote education?

We recognise that some trainees may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education:

We are not currently able to provide laptops or other devices for trainees to use at home. We are able to send work home through the post, email parents and trainees living independently, and telephone trainees to provide information and support on what they can do at home to maintain a reasonable level of learning.

How will my Young Person be taught remotely?

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

live teaching (online lessons)

recorded teaching (e.g. video/audio recordings made by our tutors)

printed paper packs produced by tutors (e.g. workbooks, worksheets)

commercially available websites supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences

long-term project work and/or internet research activities

Engagement and feedback

What are your expectations for my Young Person's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

We understand that, as all of our trainees have EHC Plans, it may be difficult for them to engage in remote learning activities.

We will communicate with parents regularly and also, where appropriate, with trainees, eg, through weekly pastoral phone calls, to offer support and advice.

How will you check whether my Young Person is engaging with their work and how will I be informed if there are concerns?

Weekly phone calls to parents and / or trainees

Checking staff emails for work sent back in from trainees

Parents / carers will be called by our Education Manager to discuss any concerns

How will you assess my child's work and progress?

- The relevant subject tutors will check work that is emailed back to them, weekly.
- The relevant subject tutors will check work that is sent back through the post, weekly.
- The tutors / Education Manager will discuss the work done over the phone with the trainees or their parents / carers, or via video calls.

Additional support for pupils with particular needs

How will you work with me to help my child who needs additional support from adults at home to access remote education?

We recognise that all of our trainees have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and may not be able to access remote education without support from adults at home. We acknowledge the difficulties this may place on families, and we will work with parents and carers to support those pupils through telephone, email and video-call communication on a regular basis to ensure relevant advice, information and support is offered.

Remote education for self-isolating trainees

If my Young Person is not in school because they are self-isolating, how will their remote education differ from the approaches described above?

There will be little difference as each trainee has their own individual learning plan. As the Horizon Project only has a small number of trainees, we are therefore able to keep remote education relevant to each trainee's individual plan, regardless of whether the entire cohort is learning remotely or just individual trainees.