

Remote learning policy

Wigan St. Andrew's CE Primary School



Approved by:	Jayne Donnellan	Date: 05.01.2021
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1. Aims

This remote learning policy for staff aims to:

- Ensure consistency in the approach to remote learning for pupils who aren't in school
- Set out expectations for all members of the school community with regards to remote learning
- Provide appropriate guidelines for data protection

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Teachers

Teachers ideally are available Monday-Friday during usual working hours but this will be primarily directed by their own personal family circumstances/situation during the current crisis. Underpinning this approach is an understanding for flexibility as to when teachers are available. If they are unable to work for any reason during this time, for example due to sickness or caring for a dependent, they should report this using the normal absence procedure.

When providing remote learning, teachers are responsible for:

This could include:

- Setting work:
 - Class teachers will provide approximately three activities per day for their pupils plus Reading;
 - Activities should include one English (either Writing or Spelling); one maths; and one other Curriculum subject;
 - Instructions should contain enough detail for the pupil to be relatively independent (age dependent) but should not rely on use of a computer or device as it is acknowledged that this may be needed by siblings and/or parent(s) working from home. Teachers should not assume that a home has access to a printer to print anything;
 - Work will be checked by SLT on a weekly basis to make sure each year group blog (Year 1 - Year 6) has work set for the children.
 - Work will be uploaded to the school website blogs by each class teacher.
- Responding as appropriate to parents:
 - No regular contact with parents is expected;
The home learning package that is offered to at Wigan St. Andrew's invites parents to email staff on their own work email as and when is needed.
 - Teachers should never use a personal device that shares their personal contact details (e.g. phone number or private email address);

Parents should send a pupil's work and/or photographs/videos should receive an acknowledgement and praise from a teacher or other school staff. This will not aim to replicate feedback on strengths and development in learning that

➤ Attending virtual meetings with staff, parents and pupils

- Teachers will not take part in any virtual or online meetings or lessons with pupils or parents from their own home.
- Teachers will be expected to attend virtual meetings with other staff in the school.

2.2 Teaching assistants

When assisting with remote learning, teaching assistants must be available during their normal working hours on the days they are normally required in school. If they are unable to work for any reason during this time, for example due to sickness or caring for a dependent, they should report this using the normal absence procedure.

Teaching assistants may:

- Work in school on specific tasks as required by the Headteacher;
- Undertake remote and/or online CPD training;
- Attend virtual meetings with colleagues.

2.3 Subject leads

Alongside their teaching responsibilities, as outlined above, Subject Leads may:

- Considering whether any aspects of the subject curriculum need to change to accommodate remote learning;
- Work with teachers setting the curriculum subject to make sure work set is appropriate and consistent;
- Working with other subject leads and senior leaders to make sure work set remotely across all subjects is appropriate and consistent, and activities are being set at an appropriate distance away from each other;
- Monitor the remote work set by teachers in their subject – explain how they'll do this, such as through regular meetings with teachers or by reviewing work set;
- Alert teachers to resources they can use to teach their subject remotely.

2.4 Special Educational Needs Coordinator

The SENCO is responsible for coordinating provision for pupils with SEND across the school as set out within the schools Special Educational Needs Policy. During a period of enforced school closure the SENCO will continue to:

- Lead on liaison with SEND pupils at home and their families;
- Ensure completion of necessary SEND paperwork and/or applications.

2.5 Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

Alongside any teaching responsibilities, senior leaders are responsible for:

- Co-ordinating the remote learning approach across the school;
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the remote learning activities for example through contact with teachers and subject leaders and reviewing work set;
- Identifying which families may have no access to the internet and ensuring that hard copies of learning activities planned are made available to the parent for collection or delivery;

- Oversee the ongoing wellbeing and CPD of teaching assistants.

2.6 Designated safeguarding lead

The DSL's responsibilities are identified within the school's Child Protection Policy.

2.7 Pupils and parents

Staff can expect pupils learning remotely to:

- Try their best to complete at least some of the activities on a daily (weekday) basis;
- Do some reading (or listen to some reading) every day;
- Seek help if they need it, from teachers or adults at home;
- Alert teachers if they're not able to complete work
- Have fun.

Staff can expect parents with children learning remotely to:

- Make the school aware if their child is sick or otherwise can't complete work
- Support their children as best they are able given their own home circumstances, health and work commitments etc;
- Seek help from school if they need it;
- Be respectful when making any complaints or concerns known to staff;
- Confirm that they are happy for their child's work to be uploaded to the school website.

2.8 Governing board

The governing board is responsible, including as advised by the DfE, for:

- Supporting staff and pupil wellbeing;
- Being pragmatic about what is covered in virtual meetings by prioritising urgent, time bound decisions only;
- Keeping monitoring to a minimum by focussing on safeguarding, health and safety, headteacher and staff wellbeing and (to a lesser extent) the school's approach to providing remote learning for pupils;
- Directing any approaches by parents made to them directly or indirectly to the school via email to enquiries@admin.saintandrews.wigan.sch.uk;
- Determining how to handle statutory procedures during a period of enforced closure such as grievance and disciplinary panels, exclusions, complaints and admissions appeals, noting that:

Exclusions – the DfE has clarified that the statutory timeframes for considering exclusions are still in effect but that the regulations already anticipate that these timeframes cannot always be met.

Complaints – the DfE has updated their guidance for school's complaints policies to provide that new or existing complaints should not be handled whilst schools are closed. If a school is closed during the enforced closure period, the Headteacher should write a response to outline the school's position and explain that the school is unable to follow its usual complaints process until school has reopened.

3. Who to contact

If **staff** have any questions or concerns about remote learning, they should contact the following individuals:

- Issues in setting work – contact the relevant subject lead, Key Stage Lead, SENCO or HEadteacher.
- Issues with behaviour – contact the SENCO or Headteacher.
- Issues with IT – contact the ICT Lead or ABtec computer solutions.

- Issues with their own workload or wellbeing – contact their line manager
- Concerns about data protection – contact the headteacher who will liaise with the Data Protection Officer.
- Concerns about safeguarding – talk to the DSL or DDSL's as set out within the school's Child Protection Policy.

If parents have any concerns above and beyond the acknowledgement of work by the class teacher, then they should contact the Headteacher or a member of her SLT at school via enquiries@admin.saintandrews.wigan.sch.uk.

4. Data protection

4.1 Accessing personal data

When accessing personal data for remote learning purposes, all staff members will:

- Only use their official school email account and never use personal messaging systems.

Connect to the school network using only a school remote desktop connection to work with any personal data to ensure that no data actually leaves the school premises.

4.2 Sharing personal data

Staff members are unlikely to need to collect and/or share personal data.

However, if it does become necessary, staff are reminded to collect and/or share as little personal data as possible online.

4.3 Keeping devices secure

All staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Keeping the device password-protected – strong passwords are at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters (e.g. asterisk or currency symbol)
- Ensuring the hard drive is encrypted – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device
- Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time
- Not sharing the device among family or friends
- Installing antivirus and anti-spyware software
- Keeping operating systems up to date – always install the latest updates

5. Safeguarding

The school's Child Protection Policy has been updated to reflect the current situation.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed half termly by the Deputy Headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the Governing Body.

7. Links with other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy

- Child protection policy
- Data protection policy and privacy notices
- Home-school agreement
- ICT and internet acceptable use policy
- Online safety policy
- Staff Code of Conduct.

APPENDIX: links to professional guidance, advice and support

Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus (UK Government)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-and-remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

‘There is no expectation that teachers should live stream or provide pre-recorded videos. Schools should consider the approaches that best suit the needs of their pupils and staff’

Joint Union advice in COVID-19 (ASCL, NAHT, NEU)

<https://neu.org.uk/media/9826/view>

‘We cannot home school the nation’s children’

Coronavirus advice (NEU)

Distance teaching and learning for school leaders

<https://neu.org.uk/advice/coronavirus-distance-teaching-and-learning-school-leaders>

‘A maximum of two to three hours of ‘work’ per day is plenty’

Distance teaching and learning for primary teachers

<https://neu.org.uk/advice/coronavirus-distance-teaching-and-learning-primary-teachers>

‘Teachers should not live stream lessons from their homes, nor engage in any video calling unless in exceptional circumstances, with the parent. Online lessons are not desirable for primary children as the teacher-pupil interaction is not easily replicated’

Undertaking remote teaching safely (NSPCC)

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/march/undertaking-remote-teaching-safely>

Safe Remote Learning advice from the PSHE Association

<https://learning.naht.org.uk/news-and-opinion/news/curriculum-and-assessment-news/safe-remote-learning-in-pshe-education-advice-from-the-pshe-association>

Coronavirus: How do I home school my children (BBC)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-52314856>

Becky Francis, professor at the UCL Institute of Education: “What is more important, say educationalists, is maintaining a degree of normality, rather than worrying about a child’s progress in English or Maths. Home schooling for now is about encouraging parents to help their children create regular routines and study habits”