

# **Castle Hill St Philip's CE Primary**



## **Remote & Blended Learning Policy**

**(During the Coronavirus Pandemic)**

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## **Statement of intent**

At Castle Hill St. Philip's Primary School, we understand the need to continually deliver high quality education, which includes during the periods of remote and blended learning for both individuals and/or groups of pupils. We recognise the importance of maintaining high expectations in all areas of school life and will support pupils to access learning in order for them to succeed.

Through the implementation of this policy, we aim to address the key concerns associated with remote and blended learning, such as online safety, access to educational resources, data protection, and safeguarding.

This policy aims to:

- Minimise the disruption to pupils' education and the delivery of the curriculum.
- Ensure provision is in place so that all pupils have access to high quality learning resources.
- Protect pupils from the risks associated with using devices connected to the internet.
- Ensure staff, parent, and pupil data remains secure and is not lost or misused.
- Ensure robust safeguarding measures continue to be in effect during the period of remote learning.
- Ensure all pupils have the provision they need to complete their work to the best of their ability, and to remain happy, healthy, and supported during periods of remote and blended learning.

## **1. Legal framework**

Within the ever-changing circumstances we are currently living through, we must be prepared for local restrictions. If local restrictions apply, the school will implement provision for remote learning to ensure pupils never miss out on education. We will ensure that our curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all.

1.1 This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation, statutory and good practice guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2020) 'Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19)'
- DfE (2020) 'Adapting teaching practice for remote education'
- DfE (2020) 'Guidance for full opening: schools'
- DfE (2020) 'Get help with technology during coronavirus (COVID-19)'
- DfE (2020) 'Get laptops and tablets for children who cannot attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19)'
- DfE (2020) 'How schools can plan for tier 2 local restrictions'
- DfE (2020) 'Laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers provided during coronavirus (COVID-19)'
- Department of Health & Social Care (2020) 'COVID-19 contain framework: a guide for local decision makers'

- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2004
- The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2020) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2019) 'School attendance'
- DfE (2017) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'
- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety: responsibilities and duties for schools'
- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety for school children'
- DfE (2016) 'Children missing education'

1.2 This new policy operates alongside all of our existing policies.

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 The governing board is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the school has robust risk management procedures in place.
- Ensuring that the school has a business continuity plan in place, where required.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the school's remote learning arrangements.

2.2 The headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff, parents and pupils adhere to the relevant policies at all times.
- Ensuring that there are arrangements in place for identifying, evaluating, and managing the risks associated with remote learning.
- Ensuring that there are arrangements in place for monitoring incidents associated with remote learning.
- Overseeing that the school has the resources necessary to action the procedures in this policy.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of this policy on an annual basis and communicating any changes to staff, parents, and pupils.
- Arranging any additional training staff may require to support pupils during the period of remote learning.
- Conducting reviews on a weekly basis of the remote learning arrangements to ensure pupils' education does not suffer.
- The headteacher will work with the LA to ensure pupils only return to school when it is safe for them to do so.
- After a period of self-isolation, or the lessening of local lockdown rules, the headteacher will inform parents when their child will return to school.
- The headteacher will listen to all concerns that parents may have about their child returning to school and will advise them of the measures in place to ensure the safety of their child.

2.3 The School Business Manager is responsible for:

- Overseeing that all school-owned electronic devices used for remote learning have adequate anti-virus software and malware protection.
- Ensuring all staff, parents, and pupils are aware of the data protection principles outlined in the GDPR.
- Ensuring that all computer programs used for remote learning are compliant with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- Overseeing that any ICT equipment used for remote learning is resilient and can efficiently recover lost data.
- Arranging the procurement of any equipment or technology required for staff to teach remotely and for pupils to learn from home.
- Ensuring value for money when arranging the procurement of equipment or technology.
- Ensuring that the school has adequate insurance to cover all remote working arrangements.

2.4 The Pastoral Manager is responsible for:

- Attending and arranging, where necessary, any safeguarding meetings that occur during the remote learning period.
- Identifying vulnerable pupils who may be at risk if they are learning remotely.
- Ensuring that child protection plans are enforced while the pupil is learning remotely, and liaising with the headteacher and other organisations to make alternate arrangements for pupils who are at a high risk, where required.
- Identifying the level of support or intervention required while pupils learn remotely and ensuring appropriate measures are in place.
- Liaising with relevant individuals to ensure vulnerable pupils receive the support required during the period of remote working ensuring all safeguarding incidents are adequately recorded and reported.

2.5 The SENDCO is responsible for:

- Ensuring that pupils with EHC plans continue to have their needs met while learning remotely, and liaising with the headteacher and other organisations to make any alternate arrangements for pupils with EHC plans and IHPs.
- Identifying the level of support or intervention that is required while pupils with SEND learn remotely.
- Ensuring that the provision put in place for pupils with SEND is monitored for effectiveness throughout the duration of the remote learning period.

2.6 The ICT technicians are responsible for:

- Ensuring that all school-owned devices used for remote learning have suitable anti-virus software installed, have a secure connection, can recover lost work, and allow for audio and visual material to be recorded, where required.
- Ensuring that any programs or networks used for remote learning can effectively support a large number of users at one time, where required, e.g. undertaking 'stress' testing.

2.7 Staff members are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.

- Reporting any health and safety incidents to the health and safety officer and asking for guidance as appropriate.
- Reporting any safeguarding incidents to the DSL and asking for guidance as appropriate.
- Taking part in any training conducted to meet the requirements of this policy, including training on how to use the necessary electronic equipment and software.
- Reporting any dangers or potential dangers they identify, as well as any concerns they may have about remote learning, to the headteacher.
- Reporting any defects on school-owned equipment used for remote learning to an ICT technician.
- Adhering to the Staff Code of Conduct at all times.

2.8 Parents and carers are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.
- Ensuring their child is available to learn remotely and that the schoolwork set is completed on time (if appropriate) and to the best of their child's ability.
- Reporting any technical issues to the school as soon as possible.
- Ensuring that their child has access to remote learning material (via a suitable device or by collecting paper copies of tasks from the school office).
- Reporting any absence in line with the terms set out in section 10.
- Ensuring their child uses the equipment and technology used for remote learning as intended.

2.9 Pupils are responsible for:

- Ensuring they are available to learn remotely and that their schoolwork is completed on time (where appropriate) and to the best of their ability.
- Reporting any technical issues to their teacher as soon as possible.
- Ensuring they have access to remote learning material and notifying a responsible adult if they do not have access.
- Only accessing the material shared by their teacher and asking for parental permission to use technology for anything beyond that.
- Reading daily, either independently or with an adult.
- Telling an adult if anything worries them whilst working online.
- Keeping personal information private and not sharing it with others online, including addresses, phone numbers, login information or passwords.
- Notifying a responsible adult if they are feeling unwell or are unable to complete the schoolwork they have been set.
- Adhering to the Behavioural Policy at all times.

### 3. Contingency planning

3.1 The school will work closely with the LA to ensure the premises is COVID-secure, and will complete all necessary risk assessments.

3.2 The school will work closely with the local health protection team when local restrictions apply and implement the provisions set within their contingency plan.

3.3 The school will communicate its contingency plans for local restrictions with parents,

including whether it will remain open to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers, or if remote working will be applicable for all.

3.4 If local restrictions are not applied, but a single class or 'bubble' needs to self-isolate, the

school will immediately implement remote learning for that group.

3.5 The level of remote learning provision required will be based on the government's four tiers

of local restrictions. Where there are no local restrictions in place, the school will continue to

remain fully open to all, and these tiers will not apply.

## **4. Teaching and learning**

4.1 All pupils will have access to high-quality education when remote working.

4.2 Teachers will ensure lessons are inclusive for all pupils, subject to the class/group's age, ability and can be adapted to account for the needs of disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND.

4.3 When teaching pupils who are working remotely, teachers will:

- Set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day.
- Deliver a planned, coherent and well-sequenced curriculum which allows skills to be built incrementally.
- Provide frequent, clear explanations of new content through high-quality curriculum resources, including through educational videos.
- Assess progress by using questions and other suitable tasks and be clear on how regularly work will be checked.
- Adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding.
- Plan a programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, ideally including daily contact with teachers.

4.4 In exceptional circumstances, the school may reduce its curriculum offering to enable pupils

to cope with the workload – class teachers will assess this need, keeping pupils' best

interests in mind, and will not take the decision lightly.

4.5 Teachers will continue to make use of formative assessments throughout the academic year,

e.g. quizzes.

4.6 The school will utilise the support available through the DfE's 'Get help with technology

during coronavirus (COVID-19)' scheme.

4.7 Under the scheme, the school can order laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers to support

the following groups of pupils if they do not have access to a digital device or the internet through other means:

- Pupils in Years 3 to 6
- Clinically extremely vulnerable children across all year groups who are shielding or self-isolating in line with government advice
- Children in all year groups who are unable to access remote education whilst attending school on a hospital site

Before distributing devices, the school will ensure:

- The devices are set up to access remote education.
- Appropriate safeguarding controls and support are in place to help pupils and their families use the devices safely.

Once devices are ready for collection, the school will either arrange for them to be collected

by families from school or delivered to pupils' homes, ensuring infection control measures are adhered to as part of this process.

## 5. Learning Materials & Resources

5.1 For the purpose of providing remote learning, the school may make use of:

- Learning Management Systems (Google Classroom or Tapestry)
- Current online learning portals (e.g. Mathletics, Numbots, myOn etc.)
- Work booklets (where appropriate)
- Educational websites (e.g. Oak National Academy etc.)
- Pre-recorded video or audio lessons

*Appendix A outlines the specific resources used to teach different subjects in our school.*

5.2 Teachers will review the DfE's list of online education resources and utilise these tools as

necessary, in addition to existing resources.

5.3 Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure that all pupils have access to the resources

needed for effective remote learning.

5.4 Teachers will ensure that online learning will be tailored to support pupils with SEND.

5.5 Lesson plans will be adapted to ensure that the curriculum remains fully accessible and inclusive via remote learning.

5.6 The school will review the learning resources pupils have access to and will adapt learning (where appropriate) in order to support individual needs

5.7 Home learning packs will be made available for pupils, who do not have access to online learning.

5.8 Teaching staff will liaise with the SLT and other relevant members of staff, to ensure all

pupils remain fully supported for the duration of the remote learning period and in the event of any issues, this will be reported as soon as possible to the relevant member of staff.

5.9 Pupils will be required to use their own or family-owned equipment to access remote

learning resources, unless the school agrees to provide or loan equipment, e.g. laptops.

5.91 For pupils who cannot access digital devices at home, the school will, where possible, apply

for technology support through Wigan Council.

5.92 Pupils and parents will be required to maintain the upkeep of any equipment they use to

access remote learning resources.

5.93 Teaching staff will oversee academic progression for the duration of the remote learning

period and will mark and provide feedback on learning in line with section 7 of this policy.

5.94 The ICT technicians are not responsible for providing technical support for equipment that is

not owned by the school.

## **6. Online safety**

This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Online Safety Policy.

6.1 All staff and pupils using pre-recorded video/audio lessons must:

- Communicate in groups – one-to-one sessions are not permitted.
- Wear suitable clothing – this includes others in their household.
- Be situated in a suitable 'public' living area within the home with an appropriate background – 'private' living areas within the home, such as bedrooms, are not permitted during video communication.
- Use appropriate language – this includes others in their household.
- Maintain the standard of behaviour expected in school.
- Use the necessary equipment and computer programs as intended.
- Not record, store, or distribute audio or video material without permission.
- Always remain aware that they are visible/ can be heard.

6.2 The school will consider whether one-to-one sessions are appropriate in some circumstances, e.g. to provide support for pupils with SEND. This will be decided and approved by the SLT, in collaboration with the SENCO.

6.3 Teachers will inform parents/carers of pupils, who are choosing not to use their devices or software as intended.

6.4 The school will risk assess the technology used for remote learning prior to use and ensure that there are no privacy issues or scope for inappropriate use.

6.5 The school will consult with parents about what methods of delivering remote teaching are most suitable – alternate arrangements will be made where necessary.

6.6 The school will ensure that all school-owned equipment and technology used for remote learning has suitable anti-virus software installed, can establish secure connections, can recover lost work, and allows for audio and visual material to be recorded or downloaded, where required.

6.7 The school will communicate to parents via email about any precautionary measures that need to be put in place if their child is learning remotely using their own/family-owned equipment and technology, e.g. ensuring that their internet connection is secure.

6.8 During the period of remote learning, the school will maintain regular contact with parents to:

- Reinforce the importance of children staying safe online.
- Ensure parents are aware of what their children are being asked to do, e.g. sites they have been asked to use and staff they will interact with.
- Encourage them to set age-appropriate parental controls on devices and internet filters to block malicious websites.
- Direct parents to useful resources to help them keep their children safe online.

6.9 The school will not be responsible for providing access to the internet off the school premises and will not be responsible for providing online safety software, e.g. anti-virus software, on devices not owned by the school.

## 7. Safeguarding

7.1 This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, which has been updated to include safeguarding procedures in relation to remote working.

7.2 The DSL and headteacher will identify 'vulnerable' pupils (pupils who are deemed to be

vulnerable or are at risk of harm) via risk assessment prior to the period of remote learning.

7.3 The DSL will arrange for regular contact to be made with vulnerable pupils, prior to the

period of remote learning.

7.4 Phone calls made to vulnerable pupils will be made using school phones where possible or

from teacher's own phones - ensuring that they withhold their phone numbers.

7.5 The Pastoral Manager will arrange for regular contact with vulnerable pupils once per week

at minimum, with additional contact arranged where required.

7.6 All contact with vulnerable pupils will be recorded on CPOMS.

7.7 The Pastoral Manager will keep in contact with vulnerable pupils' social workers or other

care professionals during the period of remote working, as required.

All home visits must:

- Have at least one suitably trained individual present.
- Be undertaken by no fewer than two members of staff.
- Be recorded on CPOMS so that the DSL has access to such records.
- Actively involve the pupil.

Vulnerable pupils will be provided with a means of contacting the DSL, their deputy, or any other relevant member of staff – this arrangement will be set up by the DSL prior to the period of remote learning.

7.8 The Pastoral Manager will meet (remotely) with the relevant members of staff once per week

to discuss new and current safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable pupils learning remotely.

7.9 All members of staff will report any safeguarding concerns to the Pastoral Manager immediately.

7.91 Pupils and their parents will be encouraged to contact the Pastoral Manager if they wish to

report safeguarding concerns, e.g. regarding harmful or upsetting content or incidents of online bullying. The school will also signpost families to the practical support that is available for reporting these concerns.

## **8. Data protection**

This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Data Protection Policy.

8.1 Staff members will be responsible for adhering to the GDPR when teaching remotely and will ensure the confidentiality and integrity of their devices at all times.

8.2 Sensitive data will only be transferred between devices if it is necessary to do so for the purpose of remote learning and teaching.

8.3 Any data that is transferred between devices will be suitably encrypted or have other data protection measures in place so that if the data is lost, stolen, or subject to unauthorised access, it remains safe until recovered.

8.4 All contact details will be stored on Arbor in line with the Data Protection Policy.

8.5 The school will not permit paper copies of contact details to be taken off the school premises.

8.6 Pupils are not permitted to let their family members or friends use any school-owned equipment which contains personal data.

8.7 Any breach of confidentiality will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Data and E-Security Breach Prevention Management Plan.

8.8 Any intentional breach of confidentiality will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Behavioural Policy or the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

## **9. Marking and feedback**

9.1 All schoolwork completed through remote learning must be:

- Finished when returned to the relevant member/s of teaching staff.
- Returned on or before the deadline set by the relevant member of teaching staff (where appropriate).
- Completed to the best of the pupil's ability.
- The pupil's own work.
- Marked in line with the Marking and Feedback Policy.
- Returned to the pupil, once marked, by an agreed date.

9.2 The school expects pupils and staff to maintain a good work ethic during the period of remote learning.

9.3 Pupils are accountable for the completion of their own schoolwork – teaching staff will contact parents via email, text or phone call if their child is not completing their schoolwork or their standard of work has noticeably decreased.

9.4 Teaching staff will monitor the academic progress of pupils with and without access to the

online learning resources and discuss additional support or provision with the headteacher as soon as possible.

- 9.5 Teaching staff will monitor the academic progress of pupils with SEND and discuss additional support or provision with the SENCO as soon as possible.
- 9.6 The school accepts a variety of formative assessment and feedback methods, e.g. through quizzes and other digital tools from teachers, and will support them with implementing these measures for remote learning where possible.

## **10. Health and safety**

This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Health and Safety Policy.

- 10.1 Teaching staff will ensure pupils are shown how to use the necessary equipment and technology safely and correctly prior to the period of remote learning.
- 10.2 If using electronic devices during remote learning, pupils will be encouraged to take a five-minute screen break every two hours.
- 10.3 Screen break frequency will be adjusted to five minutes every hour for younger pupils or pupils with medical conditions who require more frequent screen breaks.
- 10.4 If any incidents or near-misses occur in a pupil's home, they or their parents are required to report these to the health and safety officer or other relevant member of staff immediately so that appropriate action can be taken.

## **11. School day and absence**

- 11.1 Ideally, pupils will be present for remote learning by 9:00am and cease their remote learning at 3:20pm from Monday to Friday, with the exception of breaks and lunchtimes e.g. a 15 minute morning break, a 45 minute lunch break and a 15 minute afternoon break.
- 11.2 Pupils with SEND or additional medical conditions who require more regular breaks, e.g. sensory breaks, are not expected to do schoolwork during their breaks.
- 11.3 Pupils who are unwell are not expected to be present for remote working until they are well enough to do so.
- 11.4 Parents will use Tapestry or Google Classroom to inform their child's teacher (no later than 8:30am) if their child is unwell and unable to complete their learning.
- 11.5 The school will monitor absence and lateness in line with the Attendance and Truancy

Policy.

## **12. Communication**

12.1 The school will ensure adequate channels of communication are arranged in the event of an emergency.

12.2 The school will communicate with parents via email, text and Facebook about remote learning arrangements as soon as possible.

12.3 The headteacher will communicate with staff as soon as possible via email about any remote learning arrangements.

12.4 Members of staff involved in remote teaching will ensure they have a working mobile device that is available to take phone calls during their agreed working hours.

12.5 The school understands that pupils learning remotely have the right to privacy out-of-hours and should be able to separate their school and home lives – communication is only permitted between 9.00am and 4.00pm.

12.6 Members of staff will have contact with their line manager once per week.

12.7 As much as possible, all communication with pupils and their parents will take place within the school hours outlined in section 11.1.

12.8 Pupils will have verbal contact with a member of teaching staff at least once per week via a telephone call.

12.9 Parents and pupils will inform the relevant member of staff as soon as possible if schoolwork cannot be completed.

12.91 Issues with remote learning or data protection will be communicated to the pupils' teacher as soon as possible so they can investigate and resolve the issue.

12.92 The pupils' teacher will keep parents and pupils informed of any changes to the remote learning arrangements or the schoolwork set.

12.93 The SLT will review the effectiveness of communication on a weekly basis and ensure measures are put in place to address gaps or weaknesses in communication.

## **13. Monitoring and review**

- This policy will be reviewed in line with any updates to government guidance.
- All changes to the policy will be communicated to relevant members of the school community.
- The next scheduled review date for this policy is September 2021.