

Remote Learning Policy

St. Laurence Catholic Primary School



Approved by: Dr. Charlotte Woodford

Date: October 2023

Next review due by: October 2025

Aims

This remote learning policy for staff aims to:

- Ensure consistency in the approach to remote learning for pupils who are not in school, whether due to family isolation or whole bubble closure.
- Set out expectations for all members of the school community with regards to remote learning.
- Provide appropriate guidelines for data protection.

Roles and responsibilities

Teacher Bubble, class, group or small number of pupils unable to attend school

When providing remote learning, teachers must be available between 9am and 3.30pm. If they are unable to work for any reason during this time, for example due to sickness they should report this using the normal absence procedure.

When providing remote learning, teachers are responsible for:

- Setting work as appropriate for their year group and phase bubble or other pupils as directed by their Key Stage Leader/Headteacher
- Pupil work will be set for each day in line with expectations of a normal school day and timetable. Work can be set in advance or in real time depending on the needs of the pupils and available of staff.
- Work will be available either uploaded on the school learning platforms (Microsoft 365 / Tapestry) or made available through other means either remotely or with physical learning packs.
- Teachers will work within their existing phase/group structures wherever possible and liaise with SLT and school subject leaders to ensure learning managed remotely is in line with school schemes of work and curriculum.

Providing feedback on work:

- Remote feedback will wherever possible will be in line with school marking and feedback policy.
- Feedback will be returned to children in a timescale which allows children to make any necessary improvements before starting the next piece of linked work.

- Feedback will promote a dialogue about the development of pupils' learning and understanding
- Feedback will be shared via the remote learning platform or by other means which support an effective dialogue.

Keeping in touch with pupils who aren't in school and their parents:

- All teachers are expected to maintain regular and positive contact with pupils in their class or others as directed
- Contact will be by marking and feedback in the first instance, emails within the school system or via telephone calls where pupils have not responded to work set or prompts sent electronically
- Teachers are expected to respond to pupils within the hours set above and within their normal contracted working pattern
- Any concerns relating to work set remotely or safeguarding concerns should be actioned in line with school policies and any addendum.
- Teachers should discuss any concerns in relation to pupils' failure to complete work with the pupil and parents via the online learning platform, email or telephone discussion. Ongoing issues should be flagged with SLT / Heads of School to try and resolve identified barriers to remote learning.

Attending virtual meetings with staff and/or parents:

- When attending virtual meetings all teachers are expected to adhere to normal school dress code and manage interactions professionally with a view to ensuring confidentiality
- Meeting should take place in quiet areas if possible and any inappropriate or confidential material removed from line of vision.

Teaching Assistants/Higher Level Teaching Assistants

When assisting with remote learning, teaching assistants must be available for normal contracted days and hours. If they're unable to work for any reason during this time, for example due to sickness they should report this using the normal absence procedure.

When assisting with remote learning, teaching assistants are responsible for:

Supporting pupils who aren't in school with learning remotely as directed by their class teacher/ Phase Leader or Headteacher using the remote learning platform (Microsoft 365/Tapestry) or other school-based learning provision.

Attending virtual meetings with teachers and/or parents:

- When attending virtual meetings all staff are expected to adhere to normal school dress code and manage interactions professionally with a view to ensuring confidentiality
- Meeting should take place in quiet areas if possible and any inappropriate or confidential material removed from line of vision.

Subject leads Alongside their teaching responsibilities, subject leads are responsible for:

- Reviewing subject specific schemes of work and curriculum plans to put in place any adjustments needed to accommodate remote learning
- Working with teachers teaching their subject remotely to make sure all work set is appropriate and consistent
- Monitoring the remote work set by teachers in their subject Alerting teachers to resources they can use to teach their subject remotely.

Senior leaders/Members of SLT

Alongside any teaching responsibilities, senior leaders are responsible for:

- Co-ordinating the remote learning approach across the school
- Monitoring the effectiveness of remote learning through discussion with colleagues, reviewing work set and feedback given and acted on
- Monitoring the security of remote learning systems, including data protection and safeguarding considerations.

Designated safeguarding lead

See school safeguarding and child protection policy and any addendum for detail responsibilities.

IT technician

IT technician is responsible for:

- Fixing issues he has been made aware of with systems used to set and collect work
- Helping staff (where possible) with any technical issues they're experiencing
- Reviewing the security of remote learning systems and flagging any data protection breaches to the data protection officer.

Pupils and parents

School will have reviewed the outcomes of its parental survey on digital access and considered identified difficulties for some pupils when setting work to ensure all children have access a broad and balanced curriculum.

Staff should expect pupils learning remotely to:

- Be available at agreed times during the school day
- Engage with all activities set by their teacher and complete work to the deadline set.
- Seek help if they need it, from teachers or teaching assistants
- Alert teachers if they're not able to complete work or need additional support.

Staff can expect parents with children learning remotely to:

- Make the school aware if their child is sick or otherwise can't complete work in line with the usual school absence reporting procedures
- Seek help from the school if they or their children need it in respect of academic learning or well-being support Be respectful in all communications with the school.

Local Governing Body

The governing board is responsible for:

- Monitoring the school's approach to providing remote learning to ensure education remains as high quality as possible
- Ensuring that staff are certain that remote learning systems are appropriately secure, for both data protection and safeguarding reasons.

Who to contact

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

- Issues in setting work – talk to the relevant subject lead, Phase Leader, then Headteacher
- Issues with behaviour – talk to the Phase Leader, then Headteacher
- Issues with IT – talk to Computing Lead and ICT Services
- Issues with their own workload or wellbeing – talk to their phase leader, Headteacher, Concerns about data protection – talk to the Headteacher who will liaise with Cambridgeshire data protection officer Concerns about safeguarding – talk to the DSL.

Data protection

Accessing personal data

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

Access via a secure cloud service (Microsoft 365/Tapestry) or the server in St Laurence IT network and any personal data being downloaded from the school server will be secured on an encrypted memory stick

Staff should use school hardware (e.g. laptops and memory sticks) to retain any personal data rather than a personal device.

Processing personal data

Staff members may need to collect and/or share personal data such as pupil Microsoft 365 contacts as part of the remote learning system. As long as this processing is necessary for the school's official functions, individuals won't need to give permission for this to happen. However, staff are reminded to collect and/or share as little personal data as possible online.

Keeping devices secure

All staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their school 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 Rereading school acceptable use policy and following its guidance.

Safeguarding

See school safeguarding and child protection policy

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed initially in Spring Term and thereafter annually. The policy will be kept under informal review by SLT/Headteacher.

Links with other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection policy
- Data protection policy and privacy notices (Trust)
- Home-school agreement
- Trust Acceptable Use policy
- Attendance Policy
- Online safety policy
- Marking and feedback policy