

St Michael's Church School Remote Learning Policy

At St. Michael's Church School we strive to live out our aim for our school community to, "Be the best that we can be." Our approach to the Remote Learning Policy endeavours to encourage our school community to achieve excellence. We encourage our staff to accept responsibility for each and every challenge they face with positive support and mutual respect. The school will ensure the Remote Learning Policy is implemented with integrity, objectivity and accountability.

1. Aims

This Remote Education Policy aims to:

- Outline the school's approach to educating pupils who will not be attending school, as a result of government guidance or the closure of a bubble
- Make clear our expectations of staff who are self-isolating but healthy and able to continue planning, teaching and assessing pupils' work
- Ensure that remote education is offered, in a timely manner of the child not attending school.
- Ensure consistency in the approach to remote learning for all pupils, including those with SEND, who aren't in school through use of quality online and offline resources
- Provide clear expectations for members of the school community with regards to delivering high quality interactive remote learning
- Include continuous delivery of the school's broad curriculum, as well as support pupils' well-being
- Ensure that pupils learn new facts and concepts, as well as reinforcing prior learning
- Ensure that pupils engage in learning they would have completed had they been in school as normal
- Ensure that online tools used enable appropriate interaction with pupils, the assessment of their work and the provision of feedback
- Provide training for staff about the appropriate use of online platforms so that pupils and staff are effectively safeguarded and that data protection guidelines are adhered to
- Support effective communication between the school and families so that parents and pupils can access and make the best use of resources
- Ensure that pupils who lack any necessary equipment have this sourced for them

2. Who is this policy applicable to?

- Children who are absent because they are awaiting test results and the household is required to self-isolate. The rest of their school bubble are attending school and being taught as normal. Individual pupils who are unable to attend will be supported

on a case-by-case basis by providing them with work which will broadly mirror that being taught to the rest of the class who remain in school

- Children who are part of a whole bubble which is not permitted to attend school because a member of their bubble has tested positive for Covid-19.
- Children who have to work from home due to National Lockdown arrangements.

3. Resources

Resources to deliver this Remote Education Plan include:

- Google Classroom
- Wonde
- Purple Mash
- Staff have received CPD focusing on Google classroom and Purple Mash
- Information for parents, we have provided; video tutorials, written step by step instructions and had email and telephone communication to support them in accessing Google Classroom and Wonde.
- Use of video, to record any virtually taught lessons, via google classroom which will be recorded and uploaded onto the website (class pages) as appropriate.
- We are endeavouring to source additional laptops/chrome books to offer to families who currently do not have access to this form of learning technology.
- Printed learning packs will be made available for families that are not able to access remote learning, however these will only be used as a last resort.

The detailed remote learning planning and resources to deliver this policy can be found here:

- A weekly timetable and structure for remote learning (see Appendix A)
- Link to Google Classroom <https://classroom.google.com>
- Link to Wonde: <https://www.wonde.com/>
- Link to Purple Mash: <https://www.purplemash.com/sch/saintmichaelcofe>

4. Approaches to Learning: Our Principles

The following principles, informed by the DfE's requirements in respect of remote learning, underpin our approach:

- Planning will be informed by the feedback from previous learning, including remote learning
- Pupils will study a broad range of subjects, including English, Mathematics, and all other subject areas
- Pupils will learn new facts and concepts, as well as completing activities that reinforce their prior learning.
- Those who cannot attend school will access similar learning to that which their peers are completing within school.
- Activities will be varied and not solely consist of 'screen time'; for example, some lessons will consist of a teacher video/input, before children then 'go and do' to complete the set tasks away from the computer.

- Teachers will have access to a wide variety of additional resources to share remotely, such as; Oak Academy, Pixl (where appropriate), White Rose Maths (where appropriate) and Hamilton Trust.
- Resources will be quality assured by senior leaders.
- All pupils will have access to the resources they need to learn. We will ensure this by daily communication with children to ensure they are able to access the learning. If there is an ongoing difficulty, steps will be put in place to overcome this.
- Teachers will communicate the purpose of activities and their success criteria for pupils, by providing videos of teaching, 'live' class/group teaching and daily communication of learning.
- Pupils will access remote learning resources as part of in-school delivery, so that they become used to these ways of working, by using Chrome Books in school, having whole class, signing in to Google Classroom tutorials, learning how to save work to Google Classroom and weekly home learning being provided on the Google Classroom platform.
- SEND will not be a barrier to accessing the curriculum at home, because the school will work in partnership with families by ensuring all families are supported in using the online platforms.
- COVID catch-up funding will be used effectively to ensure that pupils are able to access our remote learning offer as well any additional learning opportunities in school.
- Staff workload will be managed by ensuring staff are given the opportunity to plan into the weekly planning grid (Appendix A) each week, meaning that should a bubble need to close and learning be virtual, planning can quickly and efficiently be uploaded.
- Leaders will measure engagement in remote learning by liaising with class teachers and the Computing Curriculum Lead to monitor numbers of children logged onto and using the Google Classroom platform and use this information to review provision and make changes as necessary.

5. Working with Parents

We are committed to working in close partnership with families, and providing remote learning in different ways when that is necessary to suit the needs of particular pupils, such as those who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

We will provide guidance to parents on how to use Google Classroom, Wonde and Purple Mash. These can all be found on the school website.

Resources to support the use of learning platforms will be shared with pupils and parents via newsletters, email, being highlighted on the website.

We would encourage parents to support their children's work, and to establish a routine based around the school day wherever possible. Parents should use Appendix A timetable to support them in this.

Should parents be unable to access online work for any reason, they should contact the school office in the first instance so that correct support can be put in place.

All parents are required to follow our published 'Acceptable Use Policy' which includes e-safety rules. This applies when children are working on computers at home. This can be found on the school website.

(http://www.stmichaelschurchool.co.uk/_site/data/files/users/7/files/B3F5DF99BF6FC79EED60E9D6ED1293D8.pdf)

6. Roles and responsibilities

Senior and subject leaders

Alongside any teaching responsibilities, senior/subject leaders are responsible for:

- Adapting schemes of learning so that teachers are aware of how the intended key components can be taught remotely
- Co-ordinating the remote learning approach across the school including monitoring pupils' engagement
- Lead virtual meetings to ensure consistency across the year/subject
- Monitoring the effectiveness of remote learning.
- Ensuring that staff, pupils and parents benefit from appropriate guidance about remote learning
- Ensuring that resources fully support teachers and pupils so that remote learning can take place without hindrance in this respect
- Monitoring the security of remote learning systems, including data protection and safeguarding considerations

Teachers

Teachers will be provided with the necessary training on how to use Google Classroom and Purple Mash.

When providing remote learning, teachers must be available between 8.15am and 4pm to carry out their required duties. The expectation is that 'live' teaching for pupils will take place during the current school hours for each Year group e.g 8.30am – 3pm.

Teachers unable to work for any reason during this time should contact the school business manager, as they would do if in school.

When providing remote learning, teachers are responsible for:

- Setting work:
 - Teachers will set work for the pupils in their class.
 - The work set should follow the usual timetable for the class had they been in school, wherever possible
 - Teachers will set work using the Google Classroom online platform
 - Daily English and mathematics work, SPaG/Phonics, active learning and a topic based subject lesson
- Providing feedback on work:
 - Reading, writing and mathematics work, children will be given written feedback, via Google Classroom and verbal feedback if on video call.
 - For work in other subject's children will be given written feedback, via Google Classroom and verbal feedback if on video call.

- The frequency with which teachers will provide feedback is dependent on the subject. For example. Core subjects (Mathematics and English) will receive feedback within 24 hour of submission. Other subjects will be responded to on a weekly basis.
- Keeping in touch with pupils who aren't in school and their parents:
 - Teachers are expected to make daily contact, via emails, phone calls or Google Classroom.
 - If there is a concern around the level of a pupil's engagement, the teacher should make direct contact with the children and/or their parents.
 - If a teacher becomes concerned about the lack of communication from a pupil, they should speak to the Senior Leadership team, Family Support team or Designated Safeguarding staff to follow up.
 - Teachers should only use their school email address to communicate with parents and pupils during school opening hours. For all other enquiries (non home learning) parents should send emails to office@stmichaelschurchool.co.uk
 - Teachers should check emails at least once in the morning and once in the afternoon and should respond to all parents within 24 hours during school hours. If the matter cannot be resolved within that period, the teacher will acknowledge the email and explain to the parent the reasons for the delay and the actions they are taking
 - Where a family displays difficult behaviour or is unable/unwilling to comply, teachers will contact the Senior Leadership team, Family Support team or Designated Safeguarding staff to follow up.
 - Calls to families can be made using personal phones through the Unity App so that families know the call is from School. All call charges through this App are paid by school.
- Teachers will respond promptly to requests for support from families at home, by...
 - Any complaints or concerns shared by parents or pupils should be reported to Becky Smith, Stephanie Hibbitt or Heidi Daulton; for any safeguarding concerns, refer immediately to the DSL.
- Staff who are required to self-isolate are expected to:
 - Follow the normal reporting procedure for planned absence
 - Following contact with school, the school business manager may set up a referral to Occupational Health to support that individual
 - Obtain a test and share the result of it with school so that appropriate plans can be made
 - If unwell themselves, teachers will be covered by another staff member. Planning and other activities will not be undertaken until the teacher is fit for work.

Teaching Assistants

Teaching assistants must be available during their usual working hours.

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.

During the school day, teaching assistants must complete tasks as directed by a member of the SLT. The following tasks/roles are examples and do not constitute an exhaustive list:

- Cover in other areas of the school as directed by the Headteacher or SENCOs
- Assisting the class teacher with supporting pupils
- Preparing home learning resources
- Undertake remote and/or online CPD training
- Attend virtual meetings with colleagues
- Communicate with parents
- Completion of work that accords with school improvement priorities

Designated safeguarding lead

The DSL and Safeguarding team is responsible for managing and dealing with all safeguarding concerns. For further information, please see the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The SENCO

Liaising with the ICT technicians to ensure that the technology used for remote learning is accessible to all pupils and that reasonable adjustments are made where required.

- 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 required by pupils

The Business Manager

- 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.

IT Technicians

IT technicians are responsible for:

- Fixing issues with systems used to set and collect work
- Helping staff with any technical issues they are experiencing
- Reviewing the security of remote learning systems and flagging any data protection breaches to the data protection officer
- Assisting pupils and parents with accessing the internet or devices

Pupils and parents

Staff can expect pupils learning remotely to:

- Be contactable during the school day
- Complete work to the deadline set by teachers
- Seek help if they need it, from teachers or teaching assistants
- Alert teachers if they're not able to complete work

Staff can expect parents with children learning remotely to:

- Wherever possible, maintain a regular and familiar routine, making reference to the model timetable.
- Support their children in their reading as far as they are able, so that they continue to read their home reading book or access online reading resources.
- Support their children's work as far as they are able, by discussing the work together and making appropriate plans for its completion. This can include providing a suitable place to work and encouraging their children to focus
- Make the school aware if their child is sick or otherwise cannot complete work, or if the online platform does not work on their devices, whereupon alternative resources will be offered
- Seek help from the school if they need it, communicating with class teachers via Google Classroom or by contacting the school office via email.
- Be respectful when making any complaints or concerns known to staff

Governing Body

The governing body 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

7. Personal Data

Staff members may need to collect and/or share personal data, such as information on pupils' attainment or their contact details. This is necessary in furtherance of the school's official functions and therefore individuals will not need to provide authorisation for this to happen. However, staff are reminded to collect and/or share as little personal data as possible online, and should speak to their line manager if they are unsure. Teachers and teaching assistants should not store pupils' personal data on their own electronic devices.

8. Keeping Devices Secure

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

- Using strong password protection, with passwords that are at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower case letters, numbers and special characters
- Ensuring the hard drive is encrypted, so that if the device is lost or stolen the files on the hard drive cannot be accessed by attaching it to a new device
- Making sure the device locks automatically if left inactive for a period of time
- Not allowing family or friends to use the device
- Storing the device securely to avoid theft
- Ensuring that anti-virus and anti-spyware software is up to date
- Installing updates to ensure that the operating system remains up to date

9. Safeguarding

Staff should ensure that all safeguarding concerns are reported immediately to a safeguarding officer. If you are unable to contact someone and it is an urgent matter, speak to a member of the senior leadership team. All safeguarding policies and procedures continue to apply. Please follow the guidance that you were given during the annual update training.

Staff must ensure all communication with parents and pupils is conducted through the school email following normal guidance and ensure this remains professional.

10. Expectations of staff during online meetings

When attending virtual meetings all staff should follow expected professional standards in relation to:

- Dress code
- Location, e.g. avoid noisy areas, nothing inappropriate in the background

11. Links with other policies and development plans

This policy is linked to our:

- Safeguarding
- Behaviour policy
- Child protection policy
- Data protection policy and privacy notices
- Online safety acceptable use policy
- Digital and hardware Development Planning
- Code of Conduct for Phone calls, Video conferencing and recorded video (Zoom and Google Classroom Policy.)

Appendix A

St Michael's Church School Home Learning

	English	Phonics / Spag	Mathematics	Topic	Active Learning
Monday				Geography/History	
Tuesday				RE	
Wednesday				Art and Design/ Design Technology	
Thursday				Music/Science	
Friday				PSHE	