ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY
REMOTE LEARNING POLICY



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Remote Learning Policy

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Version 1.1

Last Reviewed	
Reviewed By (Name)	
Job Role	
Next Review Date	
Version produced Spring 2026	Amendments indicated in green text. **The following has been implemented throughout:** When we use the word **must**, this refers to legal requirements. When we use the word **should**, this does not refer to a legal requirement, but what we consider is important to help you to comply effectively with the law. You should do this unless there is a good reason not to. If you choose to take a different approach, you need to be able to demonstrate that your approach complies with the law. When we use the word **could**, this refers to an option or options that you could consider to help you comply

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	effectively. There are likely to be various other ways you could comply. Removed KCSiE year reference to ensure it refers to latest version.

This document will be reviewed annually by the Data Protection Officer, and sooner where significant changes to the law occur. The school should also review this document annually, and earlier if legal changes are made to the law.

Guidance from the Department for Education about school policies can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-policies-for-schools-and-academy-trusts/statutory-policies-for-schools-and-academy-trusts

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1. Introducing our Remote Learning Policy

1.1 We recognise the importance of maintaining high expectations in all areas of school life and ensuring that all pupils have access to the learning resources and support they need to succeed, especially when they are unable to attend school in person.

1.2 Our Remote Learning Policy lays out the responsibilities of each of the members of our school community in relation to the provision of remote learning capability to our pupils and details the practical and operational matters associated with this provision.

1.3 Its aims are to:

- Set out a framework for the effective operation of Remote Learning within our school.
- Set out our expectations for all members of the school community with regards to remote learning.
- Ensure robust safeguarding measures continue to be in effect during the period of remote learning.
- Ensure pupils and staff are safe during remote learning.
- Ensure staff, parent, and pupil data remains secure and used in line with Data Protection regulations.

1.4 Our Remote Learning Policy may change in line with changing events, technologies and methodologies and as such will be regularly revised. Any changes will be communicated via our website and using our regular communication channels.

2. Scope & Responsibilities

2.1 This Policy applies to all staff (including temporary staff, consultants, governors, volunteers, and contractors, and anyone else working on our behalf), pupils, parents and carers.

2.2 All staff are responsible for reading and understanding this policy before carrying out tasks relating to remote learning, and for following this policy, including reporting any suspected breaches of it to the appropriate Senior Leader or Governor.

2.3 All leaders are responsible for ensuring their team read and understand this policy before carrying out related tasks, and that they follow this policy, including reporting any suspected breaches of it.

2.4 Our Governing Body, Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team, Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), SENCO, IT Staff and Data Protection Officer (DPO) are responsible for dealing with breaches of this policy, including suspected breaches, identified risks, and monitoring compliance with this policy.

2.5 This policy should be read in conjunction with the school HR advice and guidance.

3. The legal framework

3.1 Relevant legislation, statutory instruments, statutory guidance and Department for Education guidelines are detailed below:

- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2004
- The General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2024) 'Working together to improve school attendance'

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- DfE (2017) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'
- DfE (2022) 'Health and safety: responsibilities and duties for schools'
- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety for school children'
- DfE (2024) 'Children missing education'

3.2 The latest Government guidance can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/providing-remote-education-guidance-for-schools/providing-remote-education-guidance-for-schools

3.3 This Policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Accessibility Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Bring Your Own Device Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Children Missing in Education Policy
- Code of Conduct – Parents / Home School Learning Agreement
- Code of Conduct – Pupils
- Code of Conduct – Staff
- Curriculum Policy
- Data Protection Policy and associated Privacy Notices
- Health and Safety Policy
- IT Acceptable Use Policy
- Feedback Policy
- Off Site Working Procedure
- Online Safety Policy
- Pupil Home School Agreement
- Retention Schedule
- Separated Parents Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy

3.4 The content of this section is not exhaustive, and these provisions are subject to continuous development.

4. Learning

4.1 We believe it is in the best interest of children engaging in remote learning to provide structured and sequenced remote learning, replicating their classroom experience as closely as possible, however we recognise that switching to remote learning will affect pupils and their families in a number of ways.

4.2 The learning methods selected should be based on:

- Being realistic and focusing on what is most important, recognising that remote learning can be more difficult for many pupils and providing appropriate support.
- Allowing flexibility in the completion of activities, understanding that families may have more than one child sharing home resources and that workspaces may be shared with multiple family members, including by designing activities that are accessible for all pupils, including those working offline.

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- Ensuring remote education practices are inclusive including by tailoring the remote curriculum for pupils with SEND

4.3 We should use a range of delivery methods including:

- Directed online learning - Sign-posting to online learning resources
- Hard copy learning – Provision of hardcopy resources to complete offline
- Remote live lessons – Lesson delivered to camera, pupils log in to a platform to participate.
- Remote pre-recorded lessons - Staff delivery of lessons to camera (with no pupil presence) and made available to pupils online to access in their own time
- Synchronised learning – Staff delivery of lessons with both in school and remote pupil attendance

5. Resources

The school should provide a combination of teaching and learning resources to support remote learning including, but not necessarily limited to:

- Work booklets
- Projects
- Past and mock exam papers
- Current online learning portals
- Educational websites
- Reading tasks
- Remote learning platforms and tools
- Pre-recorded video or audio lessons

6. Equipment

6.1 Pupils should use their own or family-owned equipment to access remote learning resources, unless the school agrees to provide or loan equipment, e.g. laptops.

6.2 For pupils who cannot access digital devices at home, we should, where possible, apply for support from the government to provide devices.

6.3 If a pupil is provided with school owned equipment, the pupil and their parent should sign the *Acceptable Use Agreement* on receipt of the equipment.

7. Remote Learning Platforms & Online Learning Tools

7.1 The Use of Remote Learning Platforms and Online Learning Tools is key to our ability to offer flexibility in our learning provision and offers the chance for greater efficiency, improved connectivity and collaboration between staff, governors and pupils, and flexible access to education for vulnerable and hard to reach children, supporting safeguarding and wellbeing agendas.

7.2 These tools will further support pupils who may currently be learning through Virtual Schools, or in hospital, to feel more integrated into the school community.

7.3 We should ensure that the platforms and tools we use are secure, maintain privacy and have enterprise level security.

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8. Safeguarding

8.1 Safeguarding and child protection remains as important in this environment as anywhere else, and staff members should apply the school safeguarding guidance to remote learning, just as they would to classroom working - staff who become aware of any child protection concerns must continue to follow established safeguarding procedures.

8.2 We should adhere to all additional guidance on delivering learning for those children accessing provision at home.

8.3 When working remotely, we must ensure that the current Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy along with any addendums is adhered to at all times.

8.4 Clear reporting routes for pupils, staff, parents and carers to raise any safeguarding concerns in relation to remote online education are outlined in the Child Protection Policy and communicated to all children and staff.

9. Data Protection

9.1 Data Protection remains as important in this environment as anywhere else, and staff members should apply the school Data Protection Policies to remote learning, just as they would to classroom working - staff who become aware of any data breaches must continue to follow established data protection procedures.

9.2 This includes maintaining the same high standards of data protection, when sharing events and lessons remotely, as we would sharing any other sensitive, personal or confidential data.

9.3 Recording individuals will generate personal data including pupil images, names, contributions, login and contact details. This personal data must be protected, processed and retained in the same way as all other personal data, in line with the school Data Protection Policies and Privacy notices and in accordance with our other policies including Acceptable Use, Off Site Working and Bring Your Own Device policies, as well as our Retention Schedule.

9.4 The Data Protection Act, UK GDPR and our policies require us to assess the lawful basis for Data Sharing and the Data Protection suitability of providers of services/platforms, and this information must be published in our Privacy Notices.

9.5 We must carry out DPIAs for third party processors supplying remote and online learning and/or communications platforms and for any other processing deemed to require such.

9.6 We should follow our IT Acceptable Use and Email policy when communicating with parents and pupils.

9.7 We must follow the procedures in our Data Protection Policy for recording, reporting and responding to data breaches, suspected data breaches and cyber security incidents.

10. Wellbeing

10.1 In addition to safeguarding, pupil wellbeing is a significant consideration in our planning for remote learning.

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10.2 We should ensure our remote learning curriculum factors in support for pupils' mental and physical wellbeing and considers differentiation in our pupils. This includes scheduling regular breaks in teaching, recommending fresh air and exercise-based activities and by ensuring a reasonable balance between online and offline activities.

11 School & home communications

11.1 Maintaining a sense of community with parents, carers and pupils is very important to us and we should provide regular communication to parents about any general measures that need to be put in place if their child is learning remotely.

11.2 During the period of remote learning, we should maintain regular contact with parents to:

- Ensure parents are aware of what their children are being asked to do and when.
- Reinforce the importance of children staying safe online.
- Provide further information as the necessity arises.

12. School Responsibilities

12.1 Each member of our school community plays a part in the safe and effective delivery of remote learning. These responsibilities are outlined below.

12.2 Our governing body 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 remote learning arrangements including to ensure that the curriculum remains fully accessible and inclusive to all.

12.3 Our Headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring the school remote learning approach is effectively communicated to the whole school community and providing regular and timely updates as dictated by any circumstances relating to the invocation of a period of remote learning.
- Co-ordinating and monitoring the effectiveness of remote learning delivery across the school , including to ensure that the curriculum remains fully accessible and inclusive to all.
- Monitoring the security of remote learning systems, including data protection and safeguarding considerations.
- Overseeing that the staff and pupils have the resources and appropriate training necessary to ensure effective remote learning in accordance with this policy.
- Ensuring the relevant policies are available to the school community at all times.
- Ensuring that there are arrangements in place for identifying, evaluating, and managing the risks associated with remote learning, including putting procedures and safe systems of learning into practice, which are designed to eliminate or reduce the risks associated with remote learning.
- Ensuring that there are arrangements in place for monitoring incidents associated with remote learning.
- Managing the effectiveness of safeguarding measures through a robust system of reporting, investigating, and recording incidents.
- Ensuring that pupils identified as being at risk are provided with necessary information and instruction, as required.

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- Managing the effectiveness of health and safety measures through a robust system of reporting, investigating, and recording incidents including that the relevant risk assessments are carried out within the agreed timeframes.
- Managing the effectiveness of data protection measures through a robust system of reporting, investigating, and recording incidents including the relevant Data Protection Impact Assessments are carried out prior to sharing pupil (or other high risk) information.
- Regular reviews of the effectiveness of this policy.

12.4 The Governors and Headteacher are responsible for liaising with the Data Protection Officer to ensure:

- all staff are aware of the data protection principles outlined in the UK GDPR.
- all Data Protection Policies and Privacy Notices are updated to reflect remote learning platforms.
- that all learning platforms, apps, games, communication platforms, computer programs used for remote learning are compliant with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 and where necessary, Data Protection Impact Assessments have been carried out.
- all staff understand and follow the procedures for data breaches

12.5 The DSL is responsible for:

- Attending and arranging, where necessary, any safeguarding meetings that occur during the remote learning period.
- Liaising with the ICT technicians to ensure that all technology used for remote learning is suitable for its purpose and should protect pupils online.
- 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.

12.6 The SENCO is responsible for:

- 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 or intervention that is required while pupils with SEND learn remotely.
- Arranging additional support for pupils with SEND which must be unique to the individual's needs.
- Ensuring that the provision put in place for pupils with SEND is monitored for effectiveness throughout the duration of the remote learning period.

12.7 IT Staff are responsible for:

- Reviewing the security of remote learning systems and flagging any security breaches to the Data Protection Officer.
- Overseeing that any ICT equipment used for remote learning is resilient and can efficiently recover lost data.

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- 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.
- Working with the SENCO to ensure that the equipment and technology used for learning remotely is accessible to all pupils and staff.

12.8 Teaching & Learning staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring pupils are shown how to use the remote platforms and other tools to be utilised in the delivery of remote learning.
- Create learning plans in line with this policy.
- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.
- Taking appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure in line with the IT Acceptable Use Policy including by setting privacy settings on devices used to deliver or engage in remote learning to an appropriate level to protect themselves and the pupils/parents involved
- Reporting any safeguarding incidents to the DSL and asking for guidance as appropriate.
- Reporting any health and safety incidents to the health and safety officer and asking for guidance as appropriate.
- Reporting any Data Protection incidents to the DPO 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.
- Liaising with the SENCO and other relevant members of staff to ensure all pupils remain fully supported for the duration of the remote learning period.
- Reporting any defects on school owned equipment used for remote learning to an ICT technician.
- Adhering to the requirements of the policies listed in section 3 including as they relate to remote learning.

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Appendix 1: Pupil Code of Conduct / Behaviour Policy: Remote Learning Addendum

Introduction

This addendum supplements the school Pupil Code of Conduct and Behaviour Policy during periods of remote learning. If any conflict arises between this addendum and the school *Pupil Code of Conduct / Behaviour Policy* this addendum shall prevail during such periods.

Pupils' should ensure they have read and understood the contents of this Code of Conduct addendum before engaging in tasks relating to remote learning and should adhere to this Code of Conduct at all times during periods of remote learning, including reporting any suspected breaches of it to the school.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Taking care of their personal information.
- Only sharing their image or using their camera in line with the parental consents recorded on their school file.
- Taking reasonable steps to prevent unauthorised access to devices that are being used to access remote learning.
- Ensuring the privacy of all individuals participating in events and lessons via video conferencing or other remote means, by not sharing any sensitive, personal or confidential data, this includes:
    - Not using the information / contact details / images obtained for any other purpose than learning.
    - Not copying (by means of screen grab, photo or other means) or recording any element of an online lesson and disseminating or distributing it in any way.
- Informing an appropriate member of school staff as soon as is reasonably practical if they become aware of a data security risk or breach.
- Informing an appropriate member of school staff as soon as is reasonably practical if they have worries or concerns about the wellbeing of any of their peers.
- Adhering to the Behavioural Policy / Code of Conduct for Pupils / Online Safety Policy / Social Media policy at all times.
- Ensuring they have access to remote learning material and notifying an appropriate member of school staff if they do not have access.
- Reporting any technical issues to an appropriate member of school staff as soon as possible.
- Ensuring they are available to learn remotely during the school day/ normal school timetable, and that their schoolwork is completed on time and to the best of their ability.
- Informing an appropriate member of school staff as soon as possible if they are feeling unwell or if schoolwork cannot be completed for whatever reason, and for following the Attendance & Absence Policy.
- Maintaining the upkeep of any equipment they use to access remote learning resources.
- If a pupil is provided with school owned equipment, signing and adhering to the Acceptable Use Agreement/Codes of Conduct prior to commencing remote learning.

Appendix 2: Parental Code of Conduct: Remote Learning Addendum

This addendum supplements the school Parental Code of Conduct during periods of remote learning. If any conflict arises between this addendum and the school Parental Code of Conduct this addendum shall prevail during such periods.

We believe parents can most effectively facilitate and participate in their children's remote learning by working in partnership with the school and staff.

As part of this partnership, parents are asked to support their child in adhering to the contents of the Pupil Code of Conduct: Remote Learning Addendum at all times during periods of remote learning.

We encourage parents to communicate any issues with remote learning, safeguarding, pupil welfare, wellbeing or data protection to an appropriate member of school staff as soon as possible.

If a pupil is provided with school owned equipment, the pupil and their parent should sign the Acceptable Use Agreement/Codes of Conduct prior to commencing remote learning.