Remote Learning Policy – Covid-19

Remote learning refers to the provision of work and teacher support in the event that lessons are unable to be delivered face-to-face as normal owing to the Coronavirus pandemic. This policy may apply when a child needs to self-isolate and is unable to attend school, the school has had to close a bubble, the school has been asked to close, or a significant number of children within a class have been required to isolate.

The situations in which this policy may be used are inevitably highly varied and flexibility will therefore be needed in how this policy is applied. All staff at the school however remain committed to providing learning for children, within the scope of both resources and circumstance. Formal remote learning will be provided from no later than the third day of any isolation or closure.

This Remote Learning Policy aims to:

- Ensure consistency in the school's approach to remote learning
- Set out expectations for all members of the school community with regards to remote learning

Principles

At St Peter's, we recognise that not all families have access to sufficient devices to allow all children to engage with online learning during the school day. We also recognise the value of time for children to be creative and to be away from a screen. We believe that routine is beneficial to children and will support them in the management of their work and time. We therefore encourage families to agree a routine for accessing remote learning and to try and stick to this as much as possible.

However, given the circumstances in which remote learning may be needed we understand that families will be managing the challenges in many different ways. Learning will be provided that will take the number of hours recommended by the DfE, however, given the variety of home circumstances, the school has no fixed expectations in relation to the work that should be completed by children and is keen to underline the importance of protecting mental health and wellbeing, ensuring adequate fresh air and exercise and pursuing children's own areas of interest.

All school staff will continue to promote reading, to all children in all year groups. Reading materials will be suggested and where necessary provided to ensure that all children are able to continue to develop their reading skills throughout any period of remote learning.

Remote learning will be provided to children using a range of methods. The learning offer will be determined by -

- Levels of staff sickness/absence
- The age of the children
- The learning being covered
- Numbers of children being educated in school

Year group learning

St Peter's home learning platform is via Microsoft Teams. All parents have access to the platform with the facility to upload work to their child's online folder. When a bubble has to close, learning activities will be provided on Teams.

All children also have a school email address and are able to contact their classteacher via the class email addresses. When, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, an individual child is unable to attend school, learning activities will also be provided via Microsoft Teams.

Expectations for what learning will be set each week has been agreed by staff. This ensures that each week there is a clear programme of daily phonics lessons in Reception and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and English and maths lessons in all year groups as well as learning tasks linked to the class topics.

Children in Reception will engage with Remote Learning that will include phonics sessions and ideas for activities for parents/carers to undertake with their children, broadly covering the Early Learning Goals. All parents have access to Active Learn and Bug Club, Purple Mash and Yumu for music.

Children in Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) have access to a range of sites / platforms including Active Learn and Bug Club, Purple Mash and Yumu.

Children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 -6) have access to Times Table Rock Stars, Purple Mash and EdShed for spelling and maths.

Activities and challenges will be available using these sites for children to access on a daily basis. Class teachers will ensure that the activities accessible by the children in their classes include an appropriate level of challenge, including for the most able.

Teachers will be encouraged to provide some opportunities for online interaction with children each week; all such sessions will be recorded. When delivering online learning teachers will be expected to maintain the same levels of professionalism that are expected of them in the classroom. Learning should be delivered against a neutral background and without providing any means of identifying other family members or personal details.

Learning activities may include links to external sources and other remote learning providers.

Worksheets, or activities requiring some degree of 'filling in' will be downloadable through Teams. Paper copies of these documents will also be available for families to collect from school as needed.

It is expected that the range of remote learning opportunities provided to children in all year groups will be in line with the age-appropriate DfE expectations for learning each day, assuming that children engage fully with each of the activities offered/shared.

Children will be invited to share completed work with their teacher via Teams or the class email. Teachers are expected to acknowledge receipt of such work but are not responsible for providing feedback that replicates what would be expected when the school is open and working normally. Teachers are not expected to provide feedback on days when they would not normally be in school. If the school is open to some pupils and teachers therefore have a teaching commitment within school, they will not be able to send feedback, or respond to emails during the school day. When responding individually to children's work, teachers are expected to do so via Teams or the class email. Teachers should not use a personal device to respond to emails, nor use a personal email / social media account.

The role of Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistants should 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 for specific tasks as required by the Headteacher;
- Undertake remote and/or online CPD training;
- Support class teachers with the delivery of any online learning;
- Attend virtual meetings with colleagues.

Safeguarding and wellbeing

During any period of remote learning the school will continue to monitor children's wellbeing in so far as it is able to do so, given any restrictions that are imposed by legislation. The Headteacher / SENCo will have oversight of all children who have been identified as being especially vulnerable and will deal with any concerns regarding children's wellbeing that are shared with them by class teachers.

Where teachers have any concerns regarding the safety or wellbeing of any of the children in their class they will report these, without delay, to the Headteacher / DSL. The school's safeguarding and child protection policy will continue to be followed.

Where appropriate staff are encouraged to make contact with parents to discuss any concerns raised. Where communication takes place via telephone the school lines should ideally be used. Where it is not possible to use the school telephone a personal device may be used, but the caller's number must be withheld.

Concerns

If parents have any concerns about the home learning that has been set, they should in the first instance contact their child's class teacher, either using the class teacher's school email address, or via the school office.

Where parents experience administrative or technical issues relating to software, websites or use of the internet, these should be directed to the school office, rather than to class teachers.

Data Protection

In line with school policy, all staff are expected to take appropriate steps to ensure that their school laptop remains secure, including but not limited to -

- Keeping their school laptop password protected
- Making sure their school laptop locks if it is left inactive for a period of time
- Not allowing other family members to use their school laptop