



## **Remote Learning Policy (whole school)**

### **Rationale**

In the event of a school closure, the school is committed to providing continuity of education to its students and will do so through a process of remote (online) learning. Extensive remote learning would apply particularly in a situation in which the school is closed for an extended period of time, but a high proportion of students and teachers are healthy, and able to work as normal from home. This policy does not normally apply in the event of short-term school closures (e.g. as a result of inclement weather) or a short-term student absence.

Remote learning may also be appropriate in situations when students, in agreement with the school, have a period of absence but are able to work at home, at least to some extent. This may apply in cases such as exclusion from school, or longer term illness, assuming students are able to complete school work at home. Another relevant instance would be if, following an infectious disease outbreak, students are self-isolating at home but are not suffering with relevant symptoms.

There is no obligation for the school to provide continuity of education to students who absent themselves from school, with or without parental permission, in contravention to school or government guidance. This may apply, for example, if parents choose to take students on holiday during term time. Similarly, this would apply if parents made the decision, without prior agreement with the school, to absent their daughters from school 'as a precaution', against official guidance, in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease.

### **Remote learning for individual students**

Assuming an absence has been agreed with the school, and the student in question is healthy enough to work from home, the school will provide work for students who are unable to attend in person. If this occurs for an individual student, the collation of work and communication with the parent will be coordinated by the student's class teacher. The class teacher will use a specially set up Learning platform page to make work available to the student.

Though every case will have its own specifics, a rough guideline for the frequency of communication between school and parent would be once per week. Work will only be provided to students in this way if there is an agreed absence lasting more than three working days.

If a significant number of students are absent from school, but the school remains open, the Head will decide whether the method of remote learning operated will take the form outlined here, or as outlined below.

### **Remote learning in the event of extended school closure**

In the event of an extended school closure, the school will provide continuity of education in the following ways:

- a) Regular direct instruction from teaching teachers, with the ability of students to ask questions online (via learning platform)
- b) The setting of work that students complete, written responses (if relevant) completed electronically
- c) The assessment of specific assignments that are submitted to teachers electronically and on which feedback is provided

Students and teachers are expected to have access to the internet whilst at home; the school recognises that many families may not have home printers and will therefore not require the printing of material. The primary platforms the school will use to deliver continuity of education are:

**Learning Platform/ Microsoft Teams/Onedrive:** accessed via the relevant app or desktop application.

The extent to which different methods of instruction are employed is likely to be determined by the length of any school closure and the ability of both students and teachers to participate in remote learning. For shorter closures, for example, teachers may set work on firefly for submission in person once the school has reopened. For longer closures, teachers would make more use of live sessions (see specific guidance below and appendix) and electronic assessment. The school reserves the right to vary the range of methods used to provide remote learning tasks, feedback and interaction, based on the particular circumstances of any closure and based on our experience.

Note that in Reception it is Tapestry and the Learning platform for timetabled sessions with class teacher.

### **The setting of tasks (using the learning platform)**

Subject areas will provide work broadly in line with students' timetables through the school's Learning Platform. Tasks will be set in accordance with existing schemes of work, and tasks will be designed to allow students to progress through schemes of work at the same pace as if they were in school, where possible. Naturally, remote learning will require students and teachers to take a different approach to working through content, but tasks should ensure the pace of content coverage is as close as possible to in-school teaching, and ensure students do not fall behind. The nature of tasks set should allow students to learn independently, without the specific support of an adult at home.

Unless there is a good reason not to, tasks will be set for individual classes. The type of task set will vary between subjects, but examples of appropriate tasks might include:

- Reading and noting new material from a common subject area textbook or electronic resource
- Working through subject-specific presentations or worksheets provided by the subject area
- Watching a relevant video resource and making notes on it
- Completing a listening exercise (e.g. in languages)
- Written responses to prompt questions, extended writing plans
- Completion of practice questions or past papers, particularly for those in year 2 and 6.
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### **Live sessions**

Academic subject areas may also arrange for teaching teachers to deliver content in a 'live' manner (either by text or audio and/or visual means).

Microsoft Teams/Onedrive is a platform that allows for resources to be shared, teachers to provide exposition, and students to ask questions in 'real-time'. Students will be provided with details sessions, and will be expected to participate in them if they are asked and able to. Live sessions can be particularly helpful as they can facilitate contemporaneous communication, with students able to respond to teachers' questions (and ask them) via the conversation functionality in teams and meet.

In a live session, there is no need for teachers or students to broadcast audio or video, as the text (conversation) function is adequate. Teachers who wish to use the audio/video functions must follow GDST protocols and inform the Deputy Head Academic in advance of setting up sessions (see also Appendix below).

### **Assessment**

Providing timely and helpful feedback is a cornerstone of good teaching and learning, and whilst this may be more challenging with remote learning, teachers will endeavour to provide regular feedback to students on pieces of work that they are required to submit. Under normal circumstances, not all pieces of work are formally assessed by teachers and this would continue to be the case should the school employ remote learning.

Given the nature of the tasks, the type of feedback teachers can provide may not have the same format as marking an exercise book. Teachers are encouraged to ensure, when they set assessed work, that it is designed in such a way that meaningful feedback may be provided.

Possible methods may include:

- Providing whole class feedback rather than feedback on individual pieces of work – this is an effective way of providing feedback, supported by findings from educational research
- Using the “Comments” function on online documents on google or Microsoft
- Sending a direct email to students with specific feedback / targets

### **Expectations of students**

Assuming that a student is healthy and well enough to work, students will be expected to participate as fully as possible in the remote learning process, attending relevant live sessions, completing independent work, and submitting assessed tasks promptly and to the best of their ability.

In the event of an extended school closure, teachers will continue to deliver content in line with existing schemes of work once the school is reopened; if any student misses significant parts of the content, they will be able to view material posted online and the school will give consideration to the practicalities of helping students to catch up once the school reopens.

Teachers must work on the assumption that students will not necessarily have the full range of books and equipment that they would usually have in school.

The school expects that parents have internet access at home to access remote learning resources, but teachers will make no presumption of the student’s ability to print at home.

### **Expectations of teachers (and subject areas)**

Teachers should ensure they have effective internet and a phone connectivity at home. If this is not available for any reason, teachers can request a school device. If there are IT related issues while remote working, teachers can contact the IT Operations Manager via the service desk email [Capita Helpdesk](mailto:Capita Helpdesk) [help@capitahelpdesk.on.spiceworks.com](mailto:help@capitahelpdesk.on.spiceworks.com)

The setting and assessment of remote learning tasks will take place in accordance with school and subject area policies. Under normal circumstances, subject areas take different approaches to the setting and assessment of students’ work – for example, the frequency of substantive task set, and the regularity of written assessment provided – and subject area policies will be applied in the event of remote learning.

In order that we are providing a consistent approach, subject leaders are responsible for overseeing the nature and frequency of tasks set and assessed within their subject areas. All teachers should pay due care to the nature of tasks set, so that students have a range of activities to complete at home and are not exclusively working on a screen.

Teachers are responsible for providing constructive feedback to their students in a timely manner. Subject leaders are responsible for overseeing the form and regularity of feedback.

In the event a teacher is unwell during a period of remote learning, it becomes the responsibility of the head teacher to ensure work is set to her/his classes. Note that illness in these cases will be treated as normal and recorded in HR with back to work discussions conducted remotely if required.

Subject areas are expected to:

- Plan and deliver 'live sessions' where appropriate
- Respond to reasonable amounts of communication from students, parents and teachers
- Plan and set tasks for their students using the learning platform
- Be able to set and mark assessed work promptly, in line with school and subject area policies, returning it to students electronically (or after the period of remote working for written and project work)

Teachers should be available to contact parents if needed, by email or phone (when phoning from personal devices, dialling 141 before the number will ensure the teacher's own number is kept anonymous). If contact is deemed excessive the head teacher will be able to support you.

If parents ask for additional work beyond that set as part of the requirements above, subject areas should have a bank of general resources available on the learning platform, such as interactive websites and support activities, and point pupils and parents in that direction.

In order to ensure teachers are able to perform the minimum expectations outlined above; the school will provide a range of training opportunities that teachers should access to before any planned school closure. Teachers should ensure that they have looked through specific instructions, watched walkthroughs, and attended teacher training sessions. If teachers require support with any aspects of remote learning, they are encouraged to consult the learning platform administrators.

Unless there are extenuating circumstances, teachers will be expected to be contactable remotely by colleagues, students and parents. Teachers also should ensure their communication with students does not encourage unhelpful work habits. All communication should take place during usual office hours, with no expectation for colleagues to read or respond to emails after 3pm, although responses should be made to electronic messages within one working day in normal practice. For those who are on part-time contracts, communication is expected only on the days on which they would usually work.

Communication must always occur via official school channels, and not through personal accounts or other websites. Permitted methods are (please also see appendix regarding live links and flipped learning):

- Email using school email addresses only (both teachers and student)
- Microsoft Teams

### **Support for pupils with SEND, EAL and other specific learning enhancement needs**

Teachers should ensure that work is differentiated as required for all learners when setting online tasks. Profiles are available for SEND pupils and advice can be sought from the SENDCO.

### **Pastoral care during a school closure**

In event of a school closure, the primary responsibility for the pastoral care of a student rests with their parents / guardians. However, class teachers should check in regularly with their pupils to monitor both academic progress and their general wellbeing. Class teachers will be expected to pass on feedback to the senior team, particularly if there are concerns or a lack of communication.

## **Safeguarding during a school closure**

In the event of a school closure, pupils, parents and teachers are reminded that the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy still applies to all interactions between pupils and teachers. In that policy, there are specifically prohibited behaviours and reporting obligations to which teachers must adhere, whether they are at home, in the community or at school.

Review: September 2021

Reviewed by: L. Concannon

Signed off by: R. Iley

## **Appendix - remote working, flipped classroom, GDPR and safe working practice**

Please note that any remote working methods should adhere to GDPR guidelines. In most cases remote working via shared documents and the tasks function on firefly will give you plenty of flexibility. However, you must use your GDST account (google classroom / Microsoft teams / outlook etc.) and if you are using flipped learning techniques, uploading videos to the learning platform or video conferencing, please ensure your background is blurred or neutral.

It is possible to record meetings in Microsoft teams and this is required, both for possible future reuse and to demonstrate safe working practice if needed. Students can also be prevented from recording the sessions and this function must be selected.

Teachers must not set up or join social media groups for school use with pupils (such as WhatsApp etc.).