

Remote Learning Policy (Primary)

Date: January 2020

Review date: January 2021



Definitions of Remote Learning

Remote learning is the process of teaching and learning performed at a distance. Rather than having pupils and teachers coming together in person Remote learning means that pupils are distanced from their teacher and their peers. Effective remote learning attempts to provide an experience as close to the classroom environment, as possible when the pupil and teacher are in two different places.

Provision of Remote Education (England) Temporary Continuity Direction

The Provision of Remote Education (England) Temporary Continuity Direction came into effect on 22 October 2020 and places a legal duty on schools in England to provide remote education for statutory school-aged children who are unable to attend school due to coronavirus. This includes where:

- a class, group of pupils or individual pupils need to self-isolate, or
- there are local or national restrictions requiring pupils to stay at home.

Schools must ensure that access to remote education is in place as soon as either of the above situations occurs.

Remote education must be provided to pupils who are of compulsory school age and pupils who are below compulsory school age but who would usually be taught in a class with compulsory school aged children (most commonly in a reception class). This Direction does not apply to post 16 education, meaning further education (FE) colleges, sixth form colleges, school sixth forms or 16-19 Academies. However, it does apply to students aged 16 – 19 in special schools, who have an education health and care plan (EHCP) in place and who are in a school which is commissioned by their home local authority to provide full time education.

Aims

1.1. The purpose of this remote learning policy is to:

- Ensure a shared understanding of what remote learning is
- Ensure consistency in the approach to remote learning
- Set out expectations for all members of the School/Academy community with regards to remote learning.
- Provide appropriate guidelines for GDPR
- Reduce disruption to pupil's education and the delivery of the curriculum, so that every pupil has access to high quality learning resources
- Ensure that safeguarding measures are continued during remote learning, including robust understanding of Online Safety

Roles and Responsibilities

2.1. The **Headteacher** and **Senior Leadership Team (SLT)** are responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff, parents and pupils adhere to the relevant policies at all times.
- Ensuring that there are arrangements in place for identifying, evaluating, and managing the risks associated with remote learning.
- Ensuring that there are arrangements in place for monitoring incidents associated with remote learning.
- Overseeing that the Academy has the resources necessary to action the procedures in this policy.

- Reviewing the effectiveness of this policy on an annual basis and communicating any changes to staff, parents, and pupils.
- Arranging any additional training staff may require to support pupils during the period of remote learning.
- Conducting reviews on a weekly basis of the remote learning arrangements to ensure delivery of pupils' education.
- Ensure all pupils have the provision they need to complete their work to the best of their ability, and to support emotional, social and health wellbeing during periods of remote learning.
- Ensure parent and carers are fully aware of the support available to maintain educational outcomes during periods of non-attendance at school

2.2. The **Data Protection Lead** is responsible for:

- Overseeing to ensure that that all School/Academy-owned electronic devices used for remote learning have adequate anti-virus software and malware protection.
- Ensuring all staff, parents, and pupils are aware of the data protection principles outlined in the GDPR in relation to remote and online requirements.
- Ensuring that all computer programs used for remote learning are compliant with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

2.3 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 will 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 that might include contacts for those who are at a high risk, in cooperation with social care.
- Identifying the level of support or intervention required while pupils learn remotely and ensuring appropriate measures are planned with parents and carers.
- 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.

2.4 **The Trust's IT team** is responsible for:

- Ensuring that all Academy-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.
- Working with the Teaching and Learning lead teaching staff to ensure that the equipment and technology used for learning remotely is accessible to all pupils and staff or can support parents and carers supporting education at home.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.
- Reporting any health and safety incidents to the Health and Safety Lead and follow guidance.

- Reporting any safeguarding incidents to the DSL.
- Taking part in any training 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.
- Reporting any defects on School -owned equipment used for remote learning to an ICT Technician.

2.2 **Parents and Carers** are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.
- Ensuring their child is available to learn remotely.
- Reporting any technical issues to the School as soon as possible.
- Ensuring that their child always has access to remote learning material during the days they are not at school.
- Reporting any absence before the session has begun.
- Ensuring their child uses the equipment and technology used for remote learning as intended.
- Adhering to the set rules by the School.

2.3 **Teachers** are responsible for:

- Teachers must be available at their school specific times. 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.
- Setting work/learning activities appropriate to the needs of pupils:
 - Individual cases – work needs to mirror what has been taught in the classroom on missed days of education.
 - Bubble closure – work needs to mirror long term curriculum plans – see Oak Academy resources.
- See Addendum for School Specific Remote Learning Arrangements
- Allocated pupils they need to provide work for, including if they may need to cover for other classes.
- The amount of work/activities they need to provide to meet the needs of pupils.
- How they should coordinate with other Teachers to ensure consistency.
- Providing feedback on work / activities.
- Handling of any complaints and making sure they are passed on to the relevant person in school and the complaints policy followed.
- Attend virtual meetings.
- Wear appropriate clothing.
- During any live or recorded sessions, ensure your background online setting does not show your home or premises. This is to maintain appropriate professional boundaries.
- To liaise with teaching assistants with regards to appropriate resources or next steps in learning.

2.4 **Teaching assistants** are responsible for

- Teaching assistants must be available between school specific times. 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.
- Wear appropriate clothing.
- During any live or recorded sessions, ensure your background online setting does not show your home or premises. This is to maintain appropriate professional boundaries.

- To liaise with teachers with regards to any questions about teaching and learning.

2.5 **Subject leads** are responsible for:-

- Alongside their teaching responsibilities, as outlined above, subject leads are responsible for:
- Considering whether any aspects of the subject curriculum need to change to accommodate delivery of remote learning – add useful resources via Subject or Year group Hubs.
- Working with other Teachers teaching their subject to make sure work/ activities set has appropriate sequence and pace.
- Working with other subject leads and senior leaders to make sure work / activities set are appropriate and consistent, have sequence and pace and any deadlines fit within the Lime Trust long term plan.
- Alerting teachers to resources they can use to support delivery of teaching and learning online. Add useful resources via Subject or Year group Hubs.

Senior leaders are responsible for:-

- Alongside any teaching responsibilities, senior leaders are responsible for:
 - Coordinating the remote learning approach across their school
 - Monitoring the effectiveness of remote learning – via regular meetings with teachers and subject leaders, reviewing work / activities set and feedback from pupils and parents
 - Monitoring the security of remote learning systems, including data protection and safeguarding considerations

Who To Contact

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

- Issues in setting work - Head of Year/ SLT
- Issues with behaviour – Head of Year/ SLT
- Issues with IT – Head of Year/ SLT/IT team
- Issues with their own workload or wellbeing – Head of Year/ SLT
- Concerns about data protection –Head of Year/ SLT
- Concerns about safeguarding – DSLs

Data Protection

4.1 This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the Academy Data Protection Policy.

4.2 Staff members will be responsible for adhering to GDPR principles when teaching remotely and will ensure the confidentiality and integrity of their devices at all times.

4.3 Sensitive data will only be transferred between devices if it is necessary to do so for the purpose of remote learning and teaching.

4.4 Any data that is transferred between devices will be suitably encrypted or have other data protection measures in place so that if the data is lost, stolen, or subject to unauthorised access, it remains safe until recovered.

4.5 Parents' and pupils' up-to-date contact details will be collected prior to the period of remote learning.

4.6 All contact details will be stored in line with the Data Protection Policy. Please note:

- Any breach of confidentiality of any type will be dealt with in accordance with the Academy's **GDPR Policy** for dealing with breaches under ICO guidelines.
- Any intentional breach of confidentiality will be dealt with in accordance with the Academy's **Data Protection Policy**.

Online Safety

5.1 This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the Academy safeguarding and / or **Online Safety Policy**.

5.2 All staff and pupils using video communication (where this is deemed appropriate) must:

- Be situated in a suitable 'public' living area within the home with an appropriate background – 'private' living areas within the home, such as bedrooms, are not permitted during video communication.
- Use appropriate language – this includes others in their household.
- Maintain the standard of behaviour expected in the School.
- Use the necessary equipment and computer programs as intended.
- Not record, store, or distribute video material without permission.
- Ensure they have a stable connection to avoid disruption to lessons.
- Always remain aware that they are visible if the offer is live delivery.

5.3 The school will consider whether one-to-one sessions are appropriate in some circumstances, e.g. to provide support for pupils with further complex needs or in situations of crisis. This will be decided and approved by the SLT, in collaboration with the teacher and will almost always include an observer at both ends of the live feed, a TA for example.

5.4 The school will risk assess the technology used for remote learning prior to use and ensure that there are no privacy issues or scope for inappropriate use.

5.5 The School will consult with parents at least one week prior to the period of remote learning about what methods of delivering remote teaching are most suitable – alternate arrangements will be discussed with parents.

5.6 The Academy will ensure that all owned equipment and technology used for remote learning has suitable anti-virus software installed, can establish secure connections, can recover lost work, and allows for audio and visual material to be recorded or downloaded, where required.

5.7 The School will communicate to parents via letter, parent mail, newsletter or telephone about any precautionary measures that need to be put in place if their child is learning remotely using their own/family-owned equipment and technology, e.g. ensuring that their internet connection is secure. Our pupils will need support when using technology in the home.

5.8 During the period of remote learning, the Academy will maintain regular contact with parents and carers to:

- Reinforce the importance of children staying safe online.

- Ensure parents are aware of what their children are being asked to do, e.g. sites they have been asked to use and staff they will interact with.
- Expect parents to regularly check controls on devices and internet filters can block malicious websites.
- Direct parents to useful resources to help them keep their children safe online.

5.9 The Academy/ School setting will not be responsible for providing access to the internet off the Academy premises and will not be responsible for providing online safety software, e.g. anti-virus software, on devices not owned by the Academy.

Monitoring

6.1 Staff will monitor the academic progress of pupils with and without access to the online learning resources and discuss additional support or provision during a teaching and learning discussions with SLT.

6.2 Teaching staff will monitor the academic progress of pupils and discuss additional support or SEND provision with SENCo and SLT as soon as possible.

Resources

Learning materials

7.1 For the purpose of providing remote learning, the School may make use of:

- School website
- Identified VLE (Virtual learning environment) – this could be Tapestry, Seesaw, Class Dojo or Purple Mash. See Addendum for Schools chosen VLE
- Work booklets
- Educational websites including resources from The Oak Academy
- Practical activities which can be supported or delivered at home
- Recorded webinars or similar
- Pre-recorded video or audio lessons
- Sensory resources
- Activities based upon the advice of a speech and language, OT or physiotherapist
- See Addendum for School Specific Remote Learning Arrangements

7.2 Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure that all pupils have access to the resources needed for effective remote learning.

7.3 Lesson plans will be adapted to ensure that the curriculum remains fully accessible via remote learning, where practical – where this is not practical, the School will ensure pupils can catch up on these areas of the curriculum when they return to School.

7.4 Teaching staff will liaise with the SLT and other relevant members of staff to ensure all pupils remain fully supported for the duration of the remote learning period.

- 7.5 Any defects or issues with remote learning resources will be reported as soon as possible to the relevant member of staff.
- 7.6 Pupils will be required to use their own or family-owned equipment to access remote learning resources, unless the Academy agrees to provide or loan equipment, e.g. laptops.
- 7.7 Pupils and parents will be required to maintain the upkeep of any equipment they use to access remote learning resources.
- 7.8 Teaching staff will oversee academic progression for the duration of the remote learning period and will mark and provide feedback on work in line with section 7 of this policy.
- 7.9 The ICT Technician or ICT service staff member is not responsible for providing technical support for equipment that is not owned by the Academy/ School.

Safeguarding – see Covid Addendum

- 8.1 The **DSL** will keep in contact with vulnerable pupils' social workers or other care professionals during the period of remote working, as required.
- 8.2 All home visits must:
- Have at least one suitably trained individual present.
 - Be suitably recorded in settings-based system (CPOMS), so that the DSL has access to them.
 - Actively involve the pupil and parents/carer.
- 8.3 Vulnerable pupils will be provided with a means of contacting the **DSL** or any other relevant member of staff – this arrangement will be set up by the **DSL** prior to the period of remote learning.
- 8.4 The **DSL** will review safeguarding cases or referrals and meet (in person or remotely) with the relevant members of staff **once per week** to discuss new and current safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable pupils learning remotely.
- 8.5 All members of staff will report any safeguarding concerns to the **DSL** immediately.
- 8.6 Pupils and their parents will be encouraged to contact the **DSL** if they wish to report safeguarding concerns, e.g. regarding harmful or upsetting content or incidents of online bullying. The School/Academy will also signpost families to the practical support that is available for reporting these concerns.

Monitoring Arrangements

- 9.1 This policy will be reviewed on an **Ad-hoc basis** by the **Headteacher**.
- 9.2 Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff and other stakeholders.

Extended School / Academy / Setting Closure

10.1 If further Academy closures are announced, the policy will be reviewed and changed in accordance with government guidance for educational settings.

10.2 All staff will be informed before any changes occur.

10.3 All parents and guardians will be informed before any changes occur.

Conclusion

By introducing Remote Learning to our Teaching and Learning practices, we aim to encourage an inclusive approach to education which achieves better outcomes for our pupils at Lime Academy Abbotsmede.