

DIGITAL & REMOTE LEARNING POLICY 2026

Rationale

In the event of a school closure, the school is committed to providing continuity of education to its learners and will do so through a process of remote (online) learning.

There is no obligation for the school to provide continuity of education to learners 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 learners on holiday during term time. Similarly, this would apply if parents made the decision, without prior agreement with the school, to absent their children from school 'as a precaution', against official guidance, in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease.

This policy outlines the Federation's provision for digital and remote education during emergency short-term closures (e.g. severe weather, structural premises issues, or public health directives) or extended, medically certified pupil absence. Remote education is not provided for unauthorised term-time holidays or short-term minor illnesses..

Teaching Staff, if fit to work, will:-

- Share teaching and activities with their class through the Purple Mash Platform
- Continue teaching in line with current planning that is already in place throughout the school;
- Ensure that remote education provision will align directly with the school's live classroom curriculum. Work set must be equivalent in length and pitch to classroom teaching, with appropriate adaptations and differentiated support maintained for pupils with SEND in consultation with the SENCO.
- Keep in contact with children through Purple Mash;
- Reply to messages, set work and give feedback on activities during the normal teaching hours 9.00 am - 3:30pm
- Allow flexibility in the completion of activities, understanding that the circumstances leading to school closure will affect families in a number of ways;
- Take regular breaks away from the computer or iPad to engage in other professional duties as much as circumstances allow e.g. Policy Development;
- Where possible, 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. In addition, the SENDCo will maintain contact with pupils on their lists requiring regular support, by email or phone with parents/learners and feed back to teachers if required.
- Be expected to be contactable remotely by colleagues, learners and parents. All communication should take place during usual office hours, with no expectation for colleagues to read or respond to emails once they have finished work. 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.

Teaching assistants, if fit to work, will:-

- Be available in their working hours to assist with remote learning preparation.
- Support class teacher by keeping in contact with children through Purple Mash;
- Take regular breaks away from the computer or iPad to engage in other professional duties as much as circumstances allow.
- Assist with check in phone calls for pupils in class and make notes to be inputted on strategy list.
- Attend training if applicable
- Support teacher in preparation of work so it is differentiated.
- Be expected to be contactable remotely by colleagues, learners and parents. All communication should take place during usual office hours, For those who are on

part-time contracts, communication is expected only on the days on which they would usually work.

Children will:-

- Be assured that wellbeing is at the forefront of our thoughts and the need for children to take regular breaks, get fresh air, exercise and maintain a reasonable balance between online engagement and offline activities;
- Potentially work a day or two behind what has been shared through Purple Mash
- Only send messages and queries that are in relation to tasks set by the teacher or in response to questions the teacher may ask them directly;
- Only access the material shared by their teacher and ask for parental permission to use technology for anything beyond that;
- Read daily, either independently or with an adult;
- Consider using the school closure time to learn a new skill, follow their own interests to discover more about the world around us or just be creative.

Parents Carers will:-

- Support their child's learning to the best of their ability;
- Encourage their child to access and engage with Purple Mash posts from their teacher;
- Know they can continue to contact their class teacher as normal through the parents email address parents@st-johns.towerhamlets.sch.uk / parents@st-pauls.towerhamlets.sch.uk
- Check their child's completed work each day and encourage the progress that is being made;
- Be mindful of mental well-being of both themselves and their child and encourage their child to take regular breaks, play games, get fresh air and relax;
- The Federation proactively audits home technology access. Where pupils do not have access to a device or internet connection at home, the school will provide a loan device or alternative high-quality physical learning resource packs to ensure no pupil is placed at an educational disadvantage.

Pastoral care during a school closure

In the event of a school closure, the primary responsibility for the pastoral care of a learner rests with their parents / carers. However, staff (under the guidance of the Senior Leadership Team) should check in regularly to monitor both academic progress and general wellbeing. Staff will be expected to pass on feedback to Senior Leadership Team which will be overseen by Safeguarding/Pastoral team.

Safeguarding during a school closure

In the event of a school closure or extended remote education, the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy applies fully to all interactions between staff, pupils, and parents.

- Approved Communication Channels: All digital communication, work distribution, and feedback must take place strictly through official school systems (e.g. Purple Mash, Google Classroom, or official school email addresses). Personal email accounts, personal phone numbers, or social media platforms must never be used.
- Live Sessions & Online Environment: Staff and pupils must be dressed appropriately during any digital contact. Video backgrounds must be kept neutral or blurred.
- 1-to-1 Sessions: One-to-one video interactions are strictly prohibited unless explicitly pre-authorised in writing by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and recorded.
- Reporting Concerns: Any digital safeguarding concerns, online conduct breaches, or inappropriate pupil interactions must be logged immediately on CPOMS and escalated to the DSL or Deputy DSLs in line with school reporting procedures

Staff Wellbeing

In the event of a school closure, all staff will be contacted by a member of the senior leadership team to give staff the opportunity to communicate how they are feeling and offer to support individuals experiencing stress or difficulty.

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	Title	
	Date of latest revision	October 2026
	Approved by Governing Body	1 st October 2026
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