

REMOTE LEARNING POLICY 2020

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. 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 learners 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 learner absence.

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.

Remote learning can be accessed by a child and their siblings if they are absent because they are awaiting test results and their household is required to self-isolate or if a child's whole bubble is not permitted to attend school because they, or another member of their bubble have tested positive for Covid-19.

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;
- Accept the fact that learning remotely will be more difficult, so tasks will be set in smaller steps to allow for this;
- 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;
- Inform the school if access to technology is a challenge and the school will do everything it can to support.

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 via the google doc which will be overseen by Safeguarding/Pastoral team.

Safeguarding during a school closure

In the event of a school closure, pupils, parents, carers 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. The DSL and Deputy DSLs are contactable via email or phone.

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.

Title	Remote Learning Policy 2020
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Approved by Governing Body	1 st October 2020
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