

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School



REMOTE LEARNING POLICY

MISSION STATEMENT

GROWING IN FAITH

*Our vision at St Catherine's Catholic Primary School
and all we do, and aspire to be,
is centred on the love, life and teaching of Jesus,
and rooted in the faith of the Catholic Church.*

AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE

*Our aim is to build a loving, happy, safe and welcoming school where
everyone has the opportunity and support to recognise, celebrate and
develop
their God given gifts and talents, learning in a creative and friendly school
family.*

LEARNING FOR LIFE

*Journeying together with each other,
we work in harmony
to provide outstanding Catholic Education
for all our pupils preparing them to fulfil their mission
to the world in which we live.*

Policy Adopted: May 2022

To be reviewed: May 2024

This policy is correct as at the date of the policy. However, any information documented within may be superseded by any new information received from the LA or the Diocese after the date of the policy and which will be automatically adopted with immediate effect.

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

REMOTE EDUCATION POLICY

Introduction

During any period of long-term closure, staff at St Catherine's Primary School will continue to provide education and support to our children using remote learning. This will allow staff to keep in daily contact in a professional and confidential manner with their class. Teachers will be able to schedule learning in a manner that does not overwhelm our children. Teaching and learning can be tailored, changed and updated as time progresses, allowing for replication of classroom activity to the best of our ability. In all communications, we will prioritise the wellbeing of our children.

Aims of the Policy

- To provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents/carers about what to expect from remote education where national or local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home.
- To ensure consistency in approach so that pupils across the school have a similar experience, following age-related appropriateness.
- To be clear about the school's expectations of parents/carers and children learning and working remotely.

Responsibilities

We believe that it is in the best interests of our children that we continue to provide structured support to the best of our ability. It is important that parents/carers endeavour to set a daily timetable with their child/ren. Pupils should be included in this decision-making as this gives them both investment and ownership. Parents/carers should ensure there is a practical and comfortable space to work in. Where possible try to adhere to the school day timings and ensure work is cleared away at the end of the day, thus achieving a sense of distinction between Home/School. We recognise that parents/carers may need to adapt timings to fit in with work and other needs and responsibilities.

Teaching Staff will

- Share teaching and activities with their class through the dB primary digital platform.
- Continue teaching in line with the National curriculum objectives.
- 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 the dB Primary platform in the form of feedback and email.
- Reply to messages, set work and give feedback on activities.
- Allow flexibility in the completion of activities, understanding that the circumstances leading to our closure will affect families in a number of ways.

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.
- Complete the tasks on a daily basis, catching up if tasks are missed as soon as is possible.
- 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 dB Primary tasks and activities set by their class teacher.
- Know they can continue to contact their child's class teacher via dB Primary email function or through emailing or telephoning the school.
- Check their child's completed work each day and encourage the progress that is being made.
- Be mindful of mental wellbeing of both themselves and their child and encourage their child to take regular breaks, play games, get fresh air and relax.

The remote curriculum

A pupil's first day or two of being educated remotely might look different from our standard approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a longer period of remote teaching.

The initial days of a 'Lockdown'

In the first days of a 'Lockdown' the school will set general pieces of work and signpost parent/carers and pupils to specific websites for learning. These websites will be ones that the children are largely familiar with from either working in school or for homework.

The curriculum during sustained periods of 'Lockdown'

During normal school times, we teach in a cross-curricular 'Topic' based manner with each year following a different Topic each term.

This will be suspended and adapted during 'Lockdown' and we will move to providing a 'Whole School Topic', (eg. When I Grow Up, Fairtrade, Winter Warmers, etc) thus families who are home schooling with different aged pupils will have a clear and sustainable focus. All learning set will follow the objectives from the National Curriculum. This whole school topic approach may support siblings working together on shared activities.

The curriculum for Reading, Writing, Mathematics and RE will be age specific and aligned to that which the pupils would be taught in school. We accept the fact that learning remotely will be more difficult, so tasks/activities will be set in smaller steps to allow for this.

Remote teaching and learning weekly timetable

<p>Reception</p> <p>Between 2-3 hours of learning per day</p>	<p>Daily Reading – mainly online</p> <p>Daily Phonics</p> <p>X2 Weekly Writing tasks</p> <p>Daily Maths tasks</p> <p>X1 RE activity</p> <p>X3 Topic focused activities – to include creative and artistic subjects</p>
<p>Key Stage 1</p> <p>At least 3 hours of learning per day</p>	<p>Daily Reading – mainly online</p> <p>Daily Phonics (Year 1 only)</p> <p>Daily Writing tasks</p> <p>Daily Maths tasks</p> <p>X1 RE activity</p> <p>X3 Topic focused activities - to include creative and artistic subjects</p>
<p>Key Stage 2</p> <p>At least 4 hours of learning per day</p>	<p>Daily Reading – mainly online</p> <p>Daily Writing tasks</p> <p>Daily Maths tasks</p> <p>X1 RE activity</p> <p>X3 Topic focused activities - to include creative and artistic subjects</p>
<p>‘Class Zoom’ Meetings –</p> <p>Each week every class will have a ‘Zoom’ meeting, joining those who are leaning at home with those who are attending school. The intention is for the children to have a ‘social’ experience. They will be led by the class teacher and include chats, games etc.</p>	

NB Topic learning includes the curriculum areas of – Science, History, Geography, Art and Design Technology.

*It is expected that each family will engage with the Gospel Assembly remotely on a Monday morning.

*Each child is expected to do some form of daily exercise in the outdoor environment.

Accessing remote education

The digital platform used at St Catherine's is called 'dB Primary' – this is the same way in which Homework is set during normal school times.



The best way to access this is through the School website.

<https://www.st-catherines.w-sussex.sch.uk/>

Click on the 'Quicklinks' section in the top right hand corner

Each pupil will be given individual login details (these are the same ones used for their Homework tasks in 'normal' times) – if you have any problems please contact the school office.

Supporting children who do not have access to digital online learning

We recognise that some pupils may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education.

We will endeavour to ensure that where possible, depending on resources, we will work to provide each family with a school laptop, which will be on loan and form part of a home-school agreement. It is worth noting that online access can be achieved through the use of Xbox and PlayStation devices.

If for any reason, it is not possible for a child to learn remotely, either for a resourcing reason or a learning reason, parents/carers should contact the Headteacher and together we will make arrangements for paper copies to be provided. This is almost as a last resort as it is our belief that the learning is best accessed digitally.

Remote teaching

We use a combination of the following approaches to teach pupils remotely:

- Tasks will be set on the pupil's class homepages with introductory inputs and notes
- Each week there will be a recorded welcome/introduction from each class teacher
- A recorded Gospel Assembly
- White Rose maths teaching slides
- Recorded Phonics Sessions – Reception and Year 1
- Recorded Literacy/Writing inputs – Years 2 – 6
- A selection of PowerPoints/pdf teaching inputs
- Teacher story-time recordings

Pupil engagement

In line with Government guidelines, it is our expectation that all pupils will complete the tasks on a daily basis. However, we recognise that our pupils are working and learning in a range of circumstances eg. multiple children at home, pre-school siblings, parents/carers working from home etc. An understanding of, and willingness to adapt to these difficulties on all sides is essential for success. Please email the class teacher or contact the school to talk to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher should you be having any difficulties or problems.

Each week, the class teachers provide the Senior Leadership Team with a list of names of children that have not completed the expected number of tasks set.

During sustained periods of 'Lockdown' each family will receive a regular 'Welfare Check' telephone call from a member of staff. During this time, any worries or concerns will be discussed.

Feedback

Each class teacher will look the children's work on a daily basis. Feedback on dB Primary can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. If there are any difficulties or misconceptions, class teachers may telephone to talk it through with parents/carers and children.

Additional support for pupils with particular needs

We recognise that some pupils, for example, those pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access remote education without support from adults at home. We acknowledge the difficulties this may place on families, and we will work with parents/carers to support those pupils in the best ways to meet their needs. This may take the form of an adapted curriculum or 'Zoom' calls to support specific interventions. Where possible work will be set through the dB Primary digital platform.

Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate, but the majority of their peer group remains in school, the remote education provided will likely differ from the approach for whole groups. This is due to the challenges of teaching pupils both at home and in school. We will work with parents/carers to make a decision on how to meet the educational needs of the child/ren at this time and this will be dependent upon the health of the child and/or family at this time.

In conclusion

Our aim is that, whenever children are required to work remotely, their educational and social experiences remain as positive as we can make them. We will continue to provide the highest level of support for children and their families at all times.