Woodthorne Remote Learning Policy

Document Control Table

Title	Woodthorne Remote Learning Policy
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Approved By Name	Anu Gibson (Chair of Governors
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Document History

Date	Author	Note of Revisions
September 2021	TH	Rewrote previous Remote Learning Policy to reflect changing landscape of a reduction in Bubble Closures.

<u>Policy:</u>

This remote learning policy has been written as guidance for staff and parents during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

It sets out the systems and technology that staff will use to keep the learning experience going for children, and details how they can be used effectively and safely, while allowing for the differing needs of families.

The school's usual Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Agreements still apply at this time but this policy is an addendum in these unprecedented circumstances.

<u>Our Approach:</u>

Keeping regular learning going during the period that schools are closed is of great importance to reduce the impact on children's education, however we understand that everyone's circumstances at home will be different. Some families have one child to support while others have several. Some families have one device to share while others may have more – and some things may work differently on different devices. Some parents will have plenty of time to help their children learn, while others will be working from home and may have much less time and some children will be able to work more independently than others or need greater challenge.

Due to this we will offer a variety of daily remote-learning activities as per government guidelines but be understanding that pupils may not always be able to complete them all. We appreciate that some families won't be able to engage with the full timetable, and in this case suggest they focus on key learning priorities to try to reduce the impact on children's core Maths and English skills. Please support your child as best you are able.

<u>Remote Educational Provision For Whole Classes</u>

In the event that a whole class, Key Stage or whole school have to self-isolate, Class Teachers will post weekly timetables on Teams for their class. This will outline a range of daily learning activities which will as much as possible, link to our long-term curriculum plans and the learning children would normally be doing in school, while being adapted to suit remote learning and make use of ready-prepared high-quality online materials.

The government minimum expectation for remote learning is for schools to provide

- Key stage 1 children: 3 hours a day, on average, across the school cohort, with less for younger children

- Key stage 2 children: 4 hours a day

Our remote-learning curriculum will be delivered through a mix of live and pre-recorded video input, links to other website content and on and offline tasks (in any order and at a time that suits across the day). Opportunities to join in with time-scheduled LIVE events will be highlighted, for example Live Lessons, Times Tables Rockstars Class competitions, etc.

Throughout the day, further posts on Teams will add extra detail or examples as necessary and Teams assignments will be set to 'collect in' a piece of work. Extra challenges will also be provided across the week. Staff will give regular feedback comments and encouragement on pupils' work, as well as through whole-class feedback opportunities.

Other optional events and enrichment activity ideas will be posted on Teams to help keep the children engaged and enthusiastic, as well as supporting their social interaction and physical and emotional wellbeing at this time.

Staff will monitor children's engagement with activities and will contact parents of those children not engaging to discuss how we can help.

Interaction:

We are keen to make remote learning an interactive experience through the use of live lessons, submission and sharing of work by children and delivery of feedback from teachers, as well as opportunities for pupils and families to compete, interact and collaborate, for example through Times Tables Rockstars, enrichment ideas etc.

We will provide regular live lessons and face-to-face contact opportunities for children, to maintain a sense for them of being part of a class. We will use the Teams app to do this, through the class sites. While teaching a primary-age class this way presents its challenges, we are hoping we can use it to deliver high quality explanations and maintain enthusiasm and engagement though interaction with teachers and classmates. Please see the section further down regarding use of Teams.

Communication between staff and pupils / families will be maintained through the Teams Chat function as well as year group email address. All staff, pupils and parents must follow the usual rules outlined in the Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Agreements.

Use of Teams:

Live lessons are not compulsory as we know that for some families they are not practical. Therefore, in some circumstances, we will provide a mixture of pre-recorded and live lessons to support access for all. If you would like to join but are unable to due to technology restraints, please get in touch as we may be able to help.

The safety of both children and staff when using this technology is paramount and we will be following relevant advice from Microsoft, the Children's Commissioner and the NSPCC.

In order to protect both children and staff, we require that if you wish to take advantage of these opportunities on Teams, parents and pupils must agree to the Home Learning Agreement (Appendix 1):

By choosing to join a live lesson on Teams, you are demonstrating your consent to the Home Learning Agreement.

Additional support for pupils with particular needs

We recognise that some pupils, for example some 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 and carers to support those pupils with differentiated tasks, lessons from other year group materials, alternative methods of recording, additional resources and advice and support. Online intervention resources and small group Teams sessions will also be used where appropriate. We encourage parents to get in touch if their children are finding things too difficult or easy and we will do what we can to make personalised adaptations.

Safeguarding & Remote Learning:

With the increased use of digital technologies that comes with remote learning, safeguarding implications need careful consideration.

Parents are advised to spend time speaking with their child(ren) about online safety and reminding them of the importance of reporting to an adult anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online. While we will be doing our best to ensure links shared are appropriate, there may be tailored advertising which displays differently in your household or other changes beyond our control.

Online safety concerns should be reported to the school's DDSL (Mr Hinkley) as normal.

The following websites offer useful support:

- Childline - for support

- UK Safer Internet Centre - to report and remove harmful online content

- CEOP - for advice on making a report about online abuse

In addition, the following sites are an excellent source of advice and information:

- Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

- London Grid for Learning - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

- Net-aware - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC

- Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online

- Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online

- UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carers

If parents have any safeguarding concerns that need discussing, they can contact us on 01902 558544 and one of our Safeguarding Leads (Mr Hinkley, Miss Watts, Mr Johnston or Miss Swann) will get in touch.

Staff should continue to be vigilant at this time and follow our usual online safety and safeguarding / child protection policies and procedures, contacting a safeguarding lead directly by phone in the first instance.

Remote Educational Provision For Individuals Who Are Self-Isolating

As we move into a period where bubble closures are now a last resort, there will be occasions where individual pupils are self-isolating due to testing positive or demonstrating signs of COVID (continuous cough, loss of taste or smell, high temperature). In the event that individual pupils are confirmed to be self-isolating due to COVID, Class Teachers will provide access to remote learning activities shared through Teams.

The work produced will, as much as possible, link to our long-term curriculum plans and the learning those in school will be doing, while remaining manageable for staff to prepare on top of their usual weekly workload. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide a mix of live and pre-recorded lessons due to staffing capacity. To do this, we will make use of a number of ready prepared high quality online materials (drawing on units from the national Oak Academy that fit with our school curriculum where possible) and supplement these with our existing subscription packages which children are familiar with.

Staff will endeavour to view and feedback on as much of student's work as they are able, while balancing their workload inside of school. Students at home should receive feedback at least twice a week.

<u>Support for families to access remote-learning:</u>

We encourage families to get in touch if they are struggling to access our remote-learning offer. We may be able to support with advice or technical support, adaptations to tasks, loan of school devices, help with internet access, etc. Please contact the school office on 01902 558544 to discuss this further.

<u>Appendix 1: Remote Learning Home Agreement</u>

Remote Learning Home—School Agreement

School will...

- Provide a mixture of live lessons, independent activities and other relevant tasks (i.e on Purple Mash, Times Table Rockstars) to continue learning at home

- Respond to completed assignments/tasks through Office 365 and Purple Mash

- Provide appropriate tasks for pupils who have an IEP or are on an EHCP

- Contact pupils who do not log in to live lessons to check in on them and their family

- Offer pupils the opportunity to ask for extra help if they do not understand.
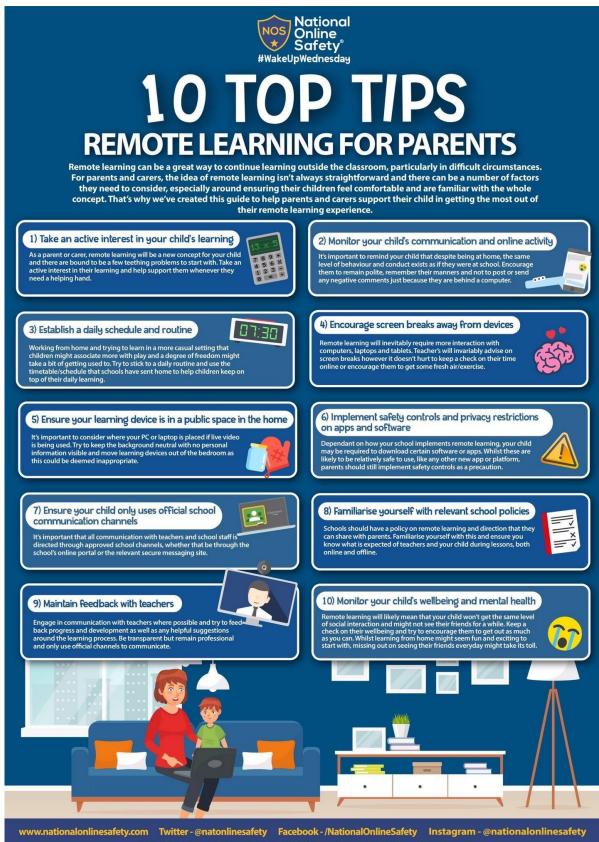
Pupils will...

- Attend all live lessons unless they have a genuine reason that they are unable to. Please be aware that pupils will be visible to and heard by their year group peers and school staff when in a live session

- Leave profile pictures as initials so that they are easily identifiable in the lesson

- Find a quiet place to join their live lesson and have a pencil and paper to make jottings

- Use the 'Raise your hand' and Chat function to participate in the lesson

- Remain on mute unless the teacher asks for them to unmute

- Blur their backgrounds

- Focus on learning during the live lesson

- Complete Purple Mash and other follow-up activities to practice skills

- Use the chat function for learning ONLY, this is not a social media chatroom

- Remember class expectations still apply - always adhere to the School Behaviour Policy.

Parents/Carers will …

- Ensure their child is following the daily timetable and completing their work to avoid more learning time loss
- Let the school know if their child has any technical issues with accessing online learning during isolation
- Report any absences as usual, via the school office—including COVID 19 symptoms or positive test results for the child or someone within the household
- Ensure their child only uses the platforms for educational purposes
- Monitor the use of their devices for access of other online materials and apps.

Please email the following statement to woodthorneprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk:
"I, the parent/carer, and my/our child, _____, agree to all the statements outlined in the Remote Learning Home School Agreement."

APPENDIX 2: National Online Safety Agency Top Tips For Parents: