

St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

Remote Learning Policy



Last updated: 21 September 2021

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Statement of intent

At St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, we understand the need to continually deliver high quality education, including during periods of remote working – whether for an individual children or many. We recognise the importance of maintaining high expectations in all areas of school life and ensuring that all children have access to the learning resources and support they need to succeed.

Through the implementation of this policy, we aim to address the key concerns associated with remote working, such as online safety, access to educational resources, data protection, and safeguarding.

This policy aims to:

- Minimise the disruption to children's education and the delivery of the curriculum.
- Ensure provision is in place so that all children have access to high quality learning resources.
- Protect children from the risks associated with using devices connected to the internet.
- Ensure staff, families, and children's data remains secure and is not lost or misused.
- Ensure robust safeguarding measures continue to be in effect during the period of remote learning.
- Ensure all children have the provision they need to complete their work to the best of their ability, and to remain happy, healthy, and supported during periods of remote learning.
- Ensure that all work is differentiated to the needs of each individual child and that online support is provided within one hour of posts being published or requests being made during working hours when working from home or within two hours when working at school.

Signed by:

Headteacher

Date:

Chair of governors

Date:

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2004
- The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013
- Data Protection Act 2018

1.1. This policy has due regard to national guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2019) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2019) 'School attendance'
- DfE (2017) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'
- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety: responsibilities and duties for schools'
- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety for school children'
- DfE (2016) 'Children missing education'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- [Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [Data Protection Policy](#)
- [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities \(SEND\) Policy](#)
- [Behavioural Policy](#)
- [Accessibility Policy](#)
- [Marking and Feedback Policy](#)
- [Curriculum Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Online Safety Policy](#)
- [Health and Safety Policy](#)
- [Attendance and Truancy Policy](#)
- [ICT Acceptable Use Policy](#)
- [Staff Code of Conduct](#)
- [Data and E-Security Breach Prevention and Management Plan](#)
- [Children Missing Education Policy](#)

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the school has robust risk management procedures in place.
- Ensuring that the school has a business continuity plan in place, where required.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the school's remote learning arrangements.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff, families and children 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 school 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, families, and children.
- 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 children's education does not suffer.

The health and safety officer is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the relevant health and safety risk assessments are carried out within the agreed timeframes, in collaboration with the headteacher.
- Putting procedures and safe systems of learning into practice, which are designed to eliminate or reduce the risks associated with remote learning.
- Ensuring that pupils identified as being at risk are provided with necessary information and instruction, as required.
- Managing the effectiveness of health and safety measures through a robust system of reporting, investigating, and recording incidents.

The DPO is responsible for:

- Overseeing that all school-owned electronic devices used for remote learning have adequate anti-virus software and malware protection.
- Ensuring all staff, families, and children are aware of the data protection principles outlined in the GDPR.
- Ensuring that all computer programs used for remote learning are compliant with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- Overseeing that any ICT equipment used for remote learning is resilient and can efficiently recover lost data.

The DSL is responsible for:

- Attending and arranging, where necessary, any safeguarding meetings that occur during the remote learning period.
- Liaising with the ICT technician to ensure that all technology used for remote learning is suitable for its purpose and will protect children online.
- Identifying vulnerable children who may be at risk if they are learning remotely.
- Ensuring that child protection plans are enforced while the children are learning remotely, and liaising with the headteacher and other organisations to make alternate arrangements for children who are at a high risk, where required.
- Identifying the level of support or intervention required while children learn remotely and ensuring appropriate measures are in place.
- Liaising with relevant individuals to ensure vulnerable children receive the support required during the period of remote working. Ensuring all safeguarding incidents are adequately recorded and reported.

The SENCO is responsible for:

- Liaising with the ICT technicians to ensure that the technology used for remote learning is accessible to all children and that reasonable adjustments are made where required.
- Ensuring that pupils with EHC plans continue to have their needs met while learning remotely, and liaising with the headteacher and other organisations to make any alternate arrangements for children with EHC plans and IHPs.
- Identifying the level of support or intervention that is required while children with SEND learn remotely.
- Ensuring that the provision put in place for children with SEND is monitored for effectiveness throughout the duration of the remote learning period.

The SBM is responsible for:

- Arranging the procurement of any equipment or technology required for staff to teach remotely and for children to learn from home.
- Ensuring value for money when arranging the procurement of equipment or technology.
- Ensuring that the school has adequate insurance to cover all remote working arrangements.

The ICT technicians are responsible for:

- Ensuring that all school-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, e.g. undertaking 'stress' testing.
- Working with the SENCO to ensure that the equipment and technology used for learning remotely is accessible to all children and staff.

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 officer** and asking for guidance as appropriate.
- Reporting any safeguarding incidents to the **DSL** and asking for guidance as appropriate.
- Taking part in any training conducted 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**.
- Adhering to the **Staff Code of Conduct** at all times.

Families are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.
- Ensuring their child is available to learn remotely at the times set out in paragraphs [9.1](#) and [9.2](#) of this policy, and that the schoolwork set is completed on time and to the best of their child's ability.
- Reporting any technical issues to the school as soon as possible.
- Ensuring that their child always has access to remote learning material during the times set out in paragraphs [9.1](#) and [9.2](#).
- Reporting any absence in line with the terms set out in paragraph [9.6](#).
- Ensuring their child uses the equipment and technology used for remote learning as intended.
- Adhering to the **Parent Code of Conduct** at all times.

Children are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.
- Ensuring they are available to learn remotely at the times set out in paragraphs [9.1](#) and [9.2](#) of this policy, and that their schoolwork is completed on time and to the best of their ability.
- Reporting any technical issues to **their teacher** as soon as possible.
- Ensuring they have access to remote learning material and notifying a responsible adult if they do not have access.
- Notifying a responsible adult if they are feeling unwell or are unable to complete the schoolwork they have been set.
- Ensuring they use any equipment and technology for remote learning as intended.
- Adhering to the **Behavioural Policy** at all times.

3. Resources

Learning materials

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

- Work books
- ParentMail/ Email
- Online learning portals
- Educational websites
- Reading tasks
- Live webinars
- Pre-recorded video or audio lessons

Teachers will review the DfE's list of [online education resources](#) and utilise these tools as necessary, in addition to existing resources.

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

Lesson plans will be adapted to ensure that the curriculum remains fully accessible via remote learning, the school will ensure children can catch up on these areas of the curriculum when they return to school.

Teaching staff will liaise with the SENCO and shadow SENCO and other relevant members of staff to ensure all children remain fully supported for the duration of the remote learning period.

Any defects or issues with remote learning resources will be reported as soon as possible to the relevant member of staff.

Children will be required to use their own or family-owned equipment to access remote learning resources, unless the school agrees to provide or loan equipment, e.g. laptops.

Children and families will be required to maintain the upkeep of any equipment they use to access remote learning resources.

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.

The arrangements for any 'live' classes, e.g. webinars, will be communicated via ParentMail no later than one day before the allotted time and kept to a reasonable length of no more than one hour per session.

The ICT technicians are not responsible for providing technical support for equipment that is not owned by the school.

Food provision

The school will signpost parents via ParentMail towards additional support for ensuring their children continue to receive the food they need, e.g. food banks.

Where applicable, the school may provide the following provision for pupils who receive FSM:

- Keeping the school canteen open during lunchtimes
- Making food hampers available for delivery or collection
- Providing vouchers to families

Costs and expenses

The school will not contribute to any household expenses incurred while pupils learn remotely, e.g. heating, lighting, or council tax.

The school will not reimburse any costs for travel between children's homes and the school premises.

The school will not reimburse any costs for childcare.

If a child is provided with school-owned equipment, the child and their family will sign and adhere to the Technology Acceptable Use Agreement prior to commencing remote learning.

4. Online safety

This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Online Safety Policy.

Where possible, all interactions will be textual and public.

All staff, children and families using video communication must:

- Communicate in groups – one-to-one sessions are not permitted.
- Wear suitable clothing – this includes others in their household.
- 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 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.

All staff, families and children using audio communication must:

- Use appropriate language – this includes others in their household.
- Maintain the standard of behaviour expected in school.
- Use the necessary equipment and computer programs as intended.
- Not record, store, or distribute audio material without permission.
- Ensure they have a stable connection to avoid disruption to lessons.
- Always remain aware that they can be heard.

Children not using devices or software as intended will be disciplined in line with the Behavioural Policy.

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.

The school will consult with families 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 made where necessary.

The school will ensure that all school-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.

The school will communicate to families via ParentMail 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.

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

5.Safeguarding

This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, which has been updated to include safeguarding procedures in relation to remote working.

The DSL and headteacher will identify 'vulnerable' children (children who are deemed to be vulnerable or are at risk of harm) via risk assessment prior to the period of remote learning.

The DSL will arrange for regular contact to be made with vulnerable children, prior to the period of remote learning.

Phone calls made to vulnerable children will be made using school phones where possible. Where school phones are not possible phones with the Office UC app must be used and calls made using VoIP option.

The DSL will arrange for regular contact with vulnerable children once per week at minimum, with additional contact, including home visits, arranged where required.

All contact with vulnerable children will be recorded on paper and suitably stored in line with the Records Management Policy.

The DSL will keep in contact with vulnerable pupils' social workers or other care professionals during the period of remote working, as required.

All home visits must:

- Have at least one suitably trained individual present.
- Be undertaken by no fewer than two members of staff.
- Be suitably recorded on paper and the records stored so that the DSL has access to them.
- Actively involve the child.

Vulnerable child will be provided with a means of contacting the DSL, their deputy, or any other relevant member of staff – this arrangement will be set up by the DSL prior to the period of remote learning.

The DSL will meet (in person or remotely) with the relevant members of staff once per week to discuss new and current safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable children learning remotely.

All members of staff will report any safeguarding concerns to the DSL immediately.

6. Data protection

This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Data Protection Policy.

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

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

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.

Families and children up-to-date contact details will be collected prior to the period of remote learning.

All contact details will be stored in line with the Data Protection Policy and retained in line with the Records Management Policy.

The school will not permit paper copies of contact details to be taken off the school premises.

Children are not permitted to let their family members or friends use any school-owned equipment which contains personal data.

Any breach of confidentiality will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Data and E-Security Breach Prevention Management Plan.

Any intentional breach of confidentiality will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Behavioural Policy or the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

7. Marking and feedback

All schoolwork set through remote learning must be:

- Complete when returned to the relevant member of staff.
- Returned before the deadline set by the relevant member of staff.
- Completed to the best of the child's ability.
- The child's own work.
- Marked in line with the **Marking and Feedback Policy**.
- Returned to the child, once marked, by an agreed date.

The school expects children and staff to maintain a good work ethic and a high quality of work during the period of remote learning.

Children are accountable for the completion of their own schoolwork –staff will contact families via ParentMail or phone call if a child is not completing their schoolwork or their standard of work has noticeably decreased.

Teaching staff will monitor the academic progress of children with and without access to the online learning resources and discuss additional support or provision with the headteacher as soon as possible.

Teaching staff will monitor the academic progress of children with SEND and discuss additional support or provision with the SENCO as soon as possible.

8. Health and safety

This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Health and Safety Policy.

Teaching staff and ICT technicians will ensure children are shown how to use the necessary equipment and technology safely and correctly prior to the period of remote learning.

If using electronic devices during remote learning, children will be encouraged to take a five minute screen break every two hours.

Screen break frequency will be adjusted to five minutes every hour for younger children or children with medical conditions who require more frequent screen breaks.

If any incidents or near-misses occur in a children's home, they or their children are required to report these to the health and safety officer or other relevant member of staff immediately so that appropriate action can be taken.

9. School day and absence

Staff will be available for remote learning by 9:00am each day until 4pm each day from Monday to Friday, and also be available at other times to respond to online remarks and comments from families if necessary.

10. Communication

The school will ensure adequate channels of communication are arranged in the event of an emergency.

The school will communicate with families via ParentMail about remote learning arrangements as soon as possible.

The headteacher will communicate with staff as soon as possible via email and ParentMail about any remote learning arrangements.

Members of staff involved in remote learning will ensure they have a working mobile device that is available to take phone calls during their agreed working hours.

The school understands that children learning remotely have the right to privacy out-of-hours and should be able to separate their school and home lives – communication is only permitted during school hours.

Members of staff will have contact with their line manager at least once per week.

Families and children will inform the relevant member of staff as soon as possible if schoolwork cannot be completed. If this is due to the level of work set then alternative work must be set for the child or children on the same working day, or next working day if the conversation began on an evening, after reasonable working hours.

Issues with remote learning or data protection will be communicated to the child's teacher as soon as possible so they can investigate and resolve the issue.

The child's teacher will keep families and children informed of any changes to the remote learning arrangements or the schoolwork set.

The headteacher will review the effectiveness of communication on a weekly basis and ensure measures are put in place to address gaps or weaknesses in communication.

11. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Governing Body, headteacher and assistant headteacher.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff and other stakeholders.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is March 2022