



Southwick Community Primary School

REMOTE LEARNING POLICY - SEPTEMBER 2021

DATE OF REVIEW: Ongoing

Policy:

This remote learning policy has been written as guidance for staff and parents during the COVID-19 Pandemic and for any remote learning that may need to take place due to illness, injury or challenging circumstances.

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.

A flexible approach:

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 are providing a flexible approach to remote learning. We will offer a variety of weekly learning activities across the curriculum.

Remote Educational Provision for Individuals Who Are Self-Isolating or Shielding

In the event that individual pupils are confirmed to be self-isolating or shielding due to COVID, Class Teachers will provide access to a weekly timetable of remote learning activities. This will be shared via the homework packs link on our school website.

This timetable 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. To do this, we will make use of a number of ready prepared high quality online materials and supplement these with our existing subscription packages which children are familiar with.

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.

Staff will view and feedback on the children's work.

Remote Educational Provision for Whole Classes

In the event of that a whole class, Key Stage or whole school have to self-isolate, or in the event of a whole school closure, Class Teachers will post weekly timetables on school the google drive which is accessible via the homework packs link on the school website. This will outline a range of daily numeracy and literacy learning activities and one piece of topic work.

Staff will view and feedback on the children's work.

Interaction:

We are keen to make remote learning an interactive experience through the submission and sharing of work by children and delivery of feedback from teachers.

We will also provide some live face-to-face contact opportunities for children, to maintain a sense for them of being part of a class. We will use the Google Classroom tool to do this. While teaching a primary-age class this way is not practical, we are hoping to use it to provide some safe, supervised and structured opportunities for children to 'meet up' with their teacher and classmates. Please see the section further down regarding the use of Google Classroom.

Communication between staff and pupils / families must be through the authorised school systems above and not through email or personal social media accounts. It should follow the usual rules outlined in the Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Agreements.

Due consideration should be put in by staff before sharing photo or video as to whether there are any issues regarding reputation, professional conduct, online safety or other safeguarding. We would strongly recommend that staff avoid using personal devices and should only use school provided equipment.

Use of Video Conferencing technologies (Google Classroom):

In the event of a school closure, we may arrange 1-to-1 and group meetings for children, particularly those with more independence in Key stage 2, to connect and interact with their teacher and peers. Further details will follow through Google classroom.

Like the rest of our online offer, these meetings are compulsory, so your child does need to attend. If you are unable to due to technology restraints, we will provide a laptop.

The safety of both children and staff when using this technology is paramount and we will be following relevant advice from Google Classroom, 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 Google Classroom, you agree to the following:

- Children are expected to be working at a table where possible with paper, a pen, pencil and ruler in front of them. Please contact school if you need any of these materials.
- Adults do not need to be present on screen as the children are expected to work independently.
- Unless they are working on them, children are asked not to have their mobile phone with them when receiving online teaching and Screenshots, photos or recordings of Google classroom meetings should **not under any circumstances** be made and the links must not be shared with others.
- Should children disrupt online teaching, they will be removed from the meeting and will not be accepted back into future meetings online.
- For additional learning opportunities and to enhance their independent working skills, children are encouraged to also complete the homework on the school Google drive as they have been doing already. However this is not a necessity if they are attending online classes.
- Children must take part in the meet up in a suitable communal environment (not a bedroom) and be appropriately dressed (uniform isn't necessary, but they should be fully dressed in clothing that covers top and bottom half of the body).
- All members of the household must be aware that the meeting is taking place and make sure they are also suitable dressed and use appropriate language and behaviour when nearby or in the background.
- You and your child will not try to contact any staff using these online tools outside of the pre-arranged meet ups which will be arranged through Google classroom. If you need to contact staff for any reason you will do so via email or over the phone as normal as normal.

We will ensure that:

- No staff member will contact you or your child using Google classroom outside of any pre-arranged meetings and if they do need to contact you they will arrange to do so with you using email or over the phone.
- Teachers will ensure appropriate security settings are in place for the meeting. They will ensure that access is only granted to the expected registered users invited with a password or direct link. Screen sharing, file-sharing, annotation and chat will be restricted.
- Participants will be held in a virtual waiting room while their identity is confirmed. Your Google classroom account must clearly identify you by name and renaming during the meeting will not be allowed. Participants' audio or video may be muted until appropriate and they may be removed from the room if rules are not being followed.

- In groups of more than one child, a teacher and one other staff member will be present throughout the video call to help safeguard all participants and monitor appropriate use.
- Teachers will stay in the meeting until everyone has 'logged off'.
- Teachers and any other adults on the call (or in the background) will use appropriate language / behaviour throughout the call.

Sites and services:

We are currently delivering remote learning through a range of sites and services, most of which are part of our usual online provision for children:

Differentiated maths activities can be assigned and completed through and Times Tables Rock Stars (Year 2 to 6) <https://trockstars.com/>

Children in KS2 who have finished their reading books can complete Accelerated Reader quizzes at home at <https://ukhosted75.renlearn.co.uk/2237511>. You can also search to see if your books from home are on their system.

We may try and make use of other subscriptions as time goes on. Further details will follow as necessary. If you require login details for any of these, please get in touch with Mr Waddell via Class Dojo.

Any use of online learning tools and systems is in line with privacy and data protection / GDPR requirements. See our policies.

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 still be reported to the school as normal. Parents can do this through by emailing concerns@southwickprimary.co.uk.

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 concerns@southwickprimary.co.uk and one of our Safeguarding Leads 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.

Links to other policies (available on the website):

Safeguarding / Child Protection Policy

Online Safety Policy / Acceptable Use Agreements

Behaviour Management Policy

Guidance For Safer Working Practice For Those Working With Children

Data Protection / GDPR Policy

10 TOP TIPS

REMOTE LEARNING FOR PARENTS

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For parents and carers, the idea of remote learning isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote learning experience.

1) Take an active interest in your child's learning

As a parent or carer, remote learning will be a new concept for your child and there are bound to be a few teething problems to start with. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



2) Monitor your child's communication and online activity

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



3) Establish a daily schedule and routine

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



4) Encourage screen breaks away from devices

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teacher's will invariably advise on screen breaks however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



5) Ensure your learning device is in a public space in the home

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



6) Implement safety controls and privacy restrictions on apps and software

Dependant on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



7) Ensure your child only uses official school communication channels

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



8) Familiarise yourself with relevant school policies

Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



9) Maintain feedback with teachers

Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to feed-back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



10) Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health

Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.

