



HOME LEARNING POLICY - SEPTEMBER 2020

DATE OF REVIEW: Ongoing

Policy:

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.

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.

Due to this we are providing a flexible approach to remote learning. We will offer a variety of weekly learning activities across the curriculum so that pupils can work their way through as much as they are able, at a time that suits them.

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 direct parents or carers to [national online classroom materials](#). This will be explained during, a phone call, made by the class teacher in the first 2 days of the school being notified about the pupil's isolation period.

The learning will, as much as possible, link to year groups programmes of study, 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 (drawing heavily on units from the national Oak Academy that fit with our school curriculum) 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.

Remote Educational Provision for Whole Classes

In the event of a whole class or the whole school have to self-isolate, Class Teachers will post daily timetables on [SeeSaw](#) (KS1 & KS2) or [Tapestry](#) (EYFS) for their class. This will outline a range of learning activities in the full range of subject areas and contain tasks and links to follow (in any order and at a time that suits across the day/week). 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.

In addition to learning posted on the schools learning platforms, opportunities to join in with time-scheduled live events may be identified and details posted on [SeeSaw](#) or [Tapestry](#).

Throughout the day, further posts on SeeSaw/Tapestry will add extra detail or examples as necessary. Staff will approve posts as soon as possible and give regular feedback on a student's learning. Other optional events and enrichment activity ideas will be spread throughout the week to help keep the children engaged and enthusiastic, as well as supporting their social interaction and physical and emotional wellbeing at this time.

Interaction:

We are keen to make remote learning an interactive experience through the submission and sharing of learning by children and delivery of feedback from teachers and arranging opportunities for pupils and families to compete, interact and collaborate, for example through Times Tables Rockstars Battles and SeeSaw blogs.

We may also provide some live face-to-face contact opportunities for children, to maintain a sense for them of being part of a class. We may use the Zoom Video Conferencing 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 use of Zoom.

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 E-Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Policy - 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, such as Zoom

If whole classes are self isolating, we may arrange group meetings for children to connect and interact with their teacher and peers. Further details will follow through SeeSaw or Tapestry.

Like the rest of our online offer, these meetings are not compulsory, so your child does not need to attend and we appreciate that not all families will be able to. If you would like to, but are unable to, due to technology restraints, please get in touch in case we can help.

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

- A free Zoom account is needed so that we can ensure only registered users can access meetings. As Zoom is not intended for use by children under 16 this must therefore be their parent's account and kept secure by them - only to be used by their child when supervised by an adult. Sign up here <https://www.zoom.us/signup>
- 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 suitably dressed and use appropriate language and behaviour when nearby or in the background. Zoom has a built-in option to use a virtual background - you may feel this is an appropriate feature to turn on.
- You must make sure you and your child have 'logged off' the call correctly once it is finished - before

turning off any devices. 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 SeeSaw or Tapestry. If you need to contact staff for any reason you will do so through SeeSaw or Tapestry as normal.

- Screenshots, photos or recordings of Zoom meetings must not be made and the links must not be shared with others.

We will ensure that:

- No staff member will contact you or your child using Zoom outside of any pre-arranged meetings and if they do need to contact you they will arrange to do so with you using SeeSaw or Tapestry.
- 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 Zoom 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 should be present throughout the video call to help safeguard all participants and monitor appropriate use.
- Teachers will ensure that all lessons are ended appropriately.
- 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:

SeeSaw and Tapestry is our main method of communication between school and families and is used for posting daily timetables and text, video and photo updates between staff and families.

Purple Mash (Whole School) and **Mini Mash (EYFS)** provide a full range of software for learning activities across the curriculum and allow staff to set 'To Dos' for children to complete. www.purplemash.com

Times Tables Rock Stars can be used to support the development of multiplication skills (Year 1 to 6) <https://trockstars.com/>

A fantastic website which allows parents to create a free login for instant access to extracts from hundreds of books. Pupils can filter books which are appropriate to their age and read extracts linked to their own interests. Each day read a new extract! <https://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk/>

Discover expert advice, educational resources and free eBooks to support children's learning at primary school and at home at Oxford Reading Owls <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Spelling can be practiced through Spelling frame (KS2) <https://spellingframe.co.uk/>

We may try and make use of other subscriptions as time goes on. Further details will follow as necessary. Login details are located in the children's planners.

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

Remote Learning books

Children will be supplied with a remote learning pack containing an exercise book and a pencil. Please keep these somewhere safe for use if a child, bubble or the school need to self-isolate. We have high

expectations of presentation from all pupils and this should be evident when working at home in their remote learning books. Pupils should use a new page for each lesson, clearly writing the lesson and date at the top of the page.

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.

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 carers 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 safeguarding@alkrington.rochdale.sch.uk and one of our Safeguarding Leads (Tim Barnes, Andrew Nott and Donna Hill) 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.

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 feedback 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.

