Remote Learning Policy

Remote Learning Policy Rationale

In the event of a school closure, the school is committed to providing continuity of education to its pupils and will do so through a process of remote (online) learning. This will apply in a situation where the school is closed, or partially closed, for an extended period.

The aim of our school is to deliver a high-quality curriculum so that pupils gain knowledge, skills and understanding.

The school's plan for remote learning is set out in detail in our 'Remote learning Plan – Information for parents/carers'. This provides clear information and is the key reference document for parents/carers. In addition, our 'Remote Learning Protocols' set out our expectations of the pupils. These are both in 'Our learning' on the school website.
(**Ref**: 'Remote learning Plan – Information for parents/carers' & 'Remote Learning Protocols')

This policy does not normally apply in the event of short-term school closures (e.g. due to inclement weather) or a short-term learner absence. Remote learning may also be appropriate in situations when learners, in agreement with the school, have a period of absence but are able to work at home, at least to some extent. This may apply in cases such as exclusion from school, or longer-term illness, assuming learners are able to complete work at home. Another relevant instance might be when, following an infectious disease outbreak, learners are self-isolating at home without symptoms or illness.

Remote learning for individual learners:

Where school agrees a period of absence, and the learner in question is healthy enough to work from home, the school will provide work for learners who are unable to attend in person. If this occurs for an individual learner, the class teacher will collate work and communicate with the pupil and parent/carer.

Remote learning in the event of extended school closure

In the event of an extended school closure, the school will provide continuity of education in the following ways:

a) Synchronous education: 'live lessons' with the teacher via MS Teams
b) Asynchronous education: the teacher prepares the material for the pupil to access later
c) Learners complete tasks assigned and checked by the teacher, either electronically or in their home learning books

The school may vary the range of methods used to provide remote learning tasks, feedback and interaction, based on what is most effective for the pupils.

We use the online platform MS Teams. This allows for resources to be shared, teachers to provide exposition, and learners to ask questions in 'real-time'. We provide pupils with appropriate log-ons and details of sessions to enable them to participate effectively. 'Live' sessions can be particularly

helpful as teachers and pupils can communicate directly, with learners able to respond to teachers' questions (and ask them) during video meetings.

Assessment

Providing timely and helpful feedback is a cornerstone of good teaching and learning, and whilst this may be more challenging with remote learning, teachers will provide regular feedback to learners.

Effective feedback includes:
- Whole class feedback and discussion about learning – this is supported by findings from educational research
- 'Live' video meetings for groups or the class
- 'Live' chat or the 'Comments' function on online assignments
- Sending a direct message to learners with specific feedback / targets
- Low-stakes quizzes to gauge pupils' knowledge

Expectations of teachers

The setting of remote learning tasks will take place in accordance with school and subject area policies. Staff will follow the established school curriculum when planning lessons and tasks for remote learners.

All teachers carefully create learning and the tasks set, so that learners can access these in school or at home. There will be a range of activities and opportunities to complete work and learn independently or collaboratively. This also ensures that children will not have to work on a screen all day. Communication must always occur via official school channels, and not through personal accounts or other websites.

Safeguarding

The school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy still applies to all interactions between pupils and teachers. In addition, we have an addendum to that policy that specifically references expectations of protocols and behaviours, by both staff and pupils.

(**Ref:** COVID-19 school closure arrangements for safeguarding and child protection at St. Margaret's)