

St. Mary's Primary

Remote Learning Policy



Our vision for St Mary's is that our pupils should be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

In order to achieve this, we aim to provide the highest quality learning experiences, which support and enhance each child's potential for success and life-long learning.

We recognise that remote learning provides a particular challenge for parents, pupils and teachers, and this policy outlines how we are developing this new way of learning.

Rationale:

In December 2020, the First Minister announced that schools should provide remote learning from January 2021. This policy sets out to share expectations and establish a collective understanding of what remote learning means for our school community, for this period of school closure and/or further closures.

Aim:

This remote learning policy aims to:

- set out the expectations for all members of our school community with regards to remote learning
- ensure consistency in the approach to remote learning for pupils that supports continuity of learning
- establish how we will implement and quality assure our remote learning offer
- provide clarity as to how our school's approach to remote learning links to guidelines from both the council and Education Scotland.

What is remote learning?

*'Remote learning is learning that is **directed** by practitioners and **undertaken** by children and young people who are not physically with the practitioner while instruction is taking place.'*

Education Scotland January 2021

What will remote learning look like for learners?

“Learners should not engage in online learning for the entirety of the school day. Learning may include activities such as research tasks, project work, practical opportunities, discussions and other activities that can be carried out away from a digital device.”

Education Scotland January 2021

Each school has different priorities and approaches, and has the autonomy to deliver remote learning in the most appropriate manner for its context.

In St Mary’s Primary, learners can expect:

- a daily check in / registration with their teacher
- a variety of learning experiences, including pre-recorded/online content and written activities, which are suited to their age and ability
- a weekly live check-in with their teacher
- feedback from their teacher on their learning
- support and activities which promote wellbeing
- a paper copy of each week’s home learning pack, if requested.

What is the role of parents?

“Parents and carers want the very best for their children. It is important to stress that, in a period of remote learning, parents and carers are not expected to be teachers and we understand that many will be juggling work and childcare.”

Education Scotland January 2021

Parents can help by:

- providing a dedicated space at home for your child to complete their learning
- setting a routine for your child – we recognise that this will be different for every family, depending on work and other commitments
- ensuring that your child has all the resources they need – please get in touch if there is anything we can do to help with this
- providing regular opportunities for your child to relax and take part in creative and/or outdoor activities - this can be at a time of your choosing and there is no need to stick to a strict school timetable each day
- being patient with your child and understanding that children take time to learn new concepts (if your child is becoming anxious or upset about a piece of work, just leave it – we will support your child with this once school returns to normal)
- being realistic about what your child’s teacher can provide in terms of remote learning – like parents, teachers are also trying to balance work and family commitments
- informing the school if your child is sick and unable to participate in remote learning on a particular day

- Monitoring your child's use of social media in order to ensure their safety online.

Additional support for parents can be found at <https://www.parentclub.scot/> and <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

What is the role of pupils?

Pupils are asked to:

- check in daily on Teams with their teacher
- complete set activities to the best of their ability
- return completed work to their teacher– either through Teams, email or when collecting the next paper pack
- contact their teacher if they need help
- ensure that all online communication is appropriate.

What is the role staff?

'Class teachers retain responsibility for planning and organising children's and young people's learning, with learning supported by parents and carers.'

Education Scotland January 2021

Teachers will provide:

- a daily check in / welcome to pupils through Teams
- a variety of learning experiences, including recorded/online content from the teacher or external providers and written activities, which are suited to the age and ability of their pupils
- a weekly live check-in for pupils
- feedback to pupils on their learning
- support for pupils' wellbeing
- information on pupils' engagement to the senior management team
- face to face teaching for key workers' children and vulnerable pupils, on a rota basis.

Support staff will provide

- in-school support for key workers' children and vulnerable pupils, on a rota basis.

Senior Management will:

- review the quality of remote learning offered to pupils through Teams and Learning packs
- liaise with parents to provide in-school learning for those pupils who need it

- evaluate pupils' engagement with remote learning and provide appropriate support for parents where children are struggling at home
- liaise with other professionals to provide support for families in need
- gather feedback from stakeholders re the effectiveness of remote learning and how this can be further improved.

What will happen if pupils are not engaging?

It is important that we track pupils' engagement in remote learning to identify families who may need additional support to access the remote learning provision. As well as this, tracking engagement in remote learning will be a key function of our safeguarding responsibilities to children as well as supporting pupil and family well-being.

Where pupils are not engaging in remote learning, we will contact parents to offer advice and support. This will vary according to the needs of the child, but may include an amended programme of learning, additional resources/stationery, liaison with other professionals or, in exceptional circumstances, a part-time placement in school.

How will we ensure quality?

- Senior Management Team will review the quality of remote learning offered to pupils and share aspects of good practice during team meetings with staff.
- Teachers will work collegiately with stage partners to share knowledge, skills and resources.
- Staff will undertake additional CPD activities to develop new skills and ways of working.
- Ongoing dialogue with stakeholders about the effectiveness of remote learning and how this can be improved.
- Engagement with the council's Education Services team including focused meetings about remote learning.
- Use of audit tools provided by the council's Education Services team.

Further reading / related documents:

- Inverclyde's Remote Learning Guidance, January 2021
- Inverclyde digital safeguarding guidance, revised January 2021
- [Education Scotland Remote Learning](#)
- Maximising Engagement during lockdown – Inverclyde Attainment Challenge 2021