

# Stathern Primary School



*'Nurture, Inspire, Discover, Create'*

## Remote Learning Policy 2020-2021

Reviewed and ratified by the School  
Development Committee on

Date: October 2020

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Smith', is written over a light blue grid background.

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# Statement of Intent

At Stathern Primary School, we understand the need to continually deliver high quality education, including during periods of remote working due to the Covid-19 pandemic – whether for an individual pupil or many. We recognise the importance of maintaining high expectations in all areas of school life and ensuring that all pupils have access to the learning resources and support they need to succeed whilst being at home either due to self-isolation or a full lockdown.

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 pupils' education and the delivery of the curriculum.
- Ensure provision is in place so that all pupils have access to high quality learning resources.
- Protect pupils from the risks associated with using devices connected to the internet.
- Ensure staff, parent, and pupil 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 pupils 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.

It is important to note that, *"no one expects parents to act as teachers, or to provide the activities and feedback that our school would."* This is not a situation where children are formally being home educated. Whilst pupils are required to stay at home, teachers and leaders are supporting education in the home environment. Current DFE guidance is at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/remote-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>.

**Wellbeing is the primary focus for staff and pupils:** staff creating and pupils engaging in structured, productive activities during a period of remote learning will support this, including physical and emotional health.

# 1. Roles and Responsibilities

## 1.1 The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff, parents and pupils 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.
- This policy will be regularly reviewed, this on-going review is dependent on the need for remote learning and changes will be communicated to staff, parents, and pupils.
- Arranging any additional training staff may require to support pupils during the period of remote learning.

## 1.2 The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for:

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

## 1.3 The SENCO is responsible for:

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- 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 pupils with EHC plans and IHPs.
- Identifying the level of support or intervention that is required while pupils with SEND learn remotely.
- Ensuring that the provision put in place for pupils with SEND is monitored for effectiveness throughout the duration of the remote learning period.

### 1.4 Staff members are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.
- 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. □ Adhering to the Staff Code of Conduct at all times.

#### 1.5 Parents are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy during periods of remote learning.
- Ensuring their child is available to learn remotely and that the schoolwork set is completed 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 event of a national/local lockdown or bubble closure.
- Reporting any absence
- Ensuring their child uses the equipment and technology used for remote learning as intended.

#### 1.6 Pupils are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.
- Ensuring they are available to learn remotely and that their schoolwork is completed 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.

## 2. Contingency Planning

- 2.1 The school will work closely with the LA to ensure the premises is 'COVID-secure', and will complete all necessary risk assessments – results of the opening risk assessment will be published on the school's website.
- 2.2 The school will work closely with the local health protection team when entering into a local lockdown and implement the provisions set within their contingency plan.
- 2.3 The school will communicate its plan for a local lockdown with parents, including whether it will remain open to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers, or if remote working will be applicable for all.
- 2.4 If there **is not** a local lockdown, but a single class or 'bubble' needs to self-isolate, the school will implement remote learning as soon as possible for that group.
- 2.5 Stathern Primary School will create detailed scenario and contingency plans which will be communicated to staff and parents. Read this policy with that plan.

## 3. Resources

### Learning materials

3.1 The school will accept a range of different teaching methods during remote learning to help explain concepts and address misconceptions easily. For the purpose of providing remote learning, the school may make use of:

- Work packs
- Email
- Learning portals TTRS Reading Eggs
- Educational websites
- Reading tasks
- Pre-recorded videos
- Virtual platforms such as Zoom or Teams
- Class DOJO

- 3.2 Teachers will review the DfE's list of [online education resources](#) and utilise these tools as necessary, in addition to existing resources.
- 3.3 Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure that all pupils have access to the resources needed for effective remote learning.
- 3.4 Teachers will ensure the programmes chosen for online learning have a range of accessibility features.
- 3.5 Lesson plans will be adapted to ensure that the curriculum remains fully accessible and inclusive via remote learning.
- 3.6 The school will review the resources pupils have access to and adapt learning to account for all pupils needs by using a range of different formats, e.g. providing work on PDFs which can easily be printed from a mobile device.
- 3.7 Work packs will be made available for pupils who do not have access to a printer – these packs can be collected from school, provided that school is open and not in full lockdown. Should full lockdown occur, the school will endeavour to provide a pack of work for those who need it.

- 3.8 Teaching staff will liaise with the SENCO and other relevant members of staff to ensure all pupils remain fully supported for the duration of the remote learning period.
- 3.9 The SENCO will liaise with their teaching colleagues to arrange additional support for pupils with SEND which will be unique to the individual's needs, e.g. via weekly phone calls/emails.
- 3.10 Any issues with remote learning resources will be reported as soon as possible to the relevant member of staff.
- 3.11 Pupils 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/iPads.
- 3.12 Pupils and parents will be required to maintain the upkeep of any equipment they use to access remote learning resources.
- 3.13 Teaching staff will oversee academic progression for the duration of the remote learning period and will provide feedback on work.
- 3.14 The ICT technicians are not responsible for providing technical support for equipment that is not owned by the school.

## 4. Costs and expenses

- 4.1 The school will not contribute to any household expenses incurred while pupils learn remotely, e.g. heating, lighting, or council tax.
- 4.2 The school will not reimburse any costs for travel between pupils' homes and the school premises.
- 4.3 The school will not reimburse any costs for childcare.

## 5. Online Safety

- 5.1 This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Online Safety Policy.
- 5.2 Where possible, all interactions will be textual and public.
- 5.3 All staff and pupils 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.

- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 During the period of remote learning, the school will maintain regular contact with parents to:
- ✓ Reinforce the importance of children staying safe online.
  - ✓ Ensure parents are aware of what their children are being asked to do, e.g. sites they have been asked to use and staff they will interact with.
  - ✓ Encourage them to set age-appropriate parental controls on devices and internet filters to block malicious websites.
  - ✓ Direct parents to useful resources to help them keep their children safe online.
- 5.6 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. antivirus software, on devices not owned by the school.

## 6. Safeguarding

- 6.1 This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Child Protection Policy, which has been updated to include safeguarding procedures in relation to remote working.
- 6.2 The DSL will arrange for regular contact to be made with the parents or carers of vulnerable pupils, prior to the period of remote learning.
- 6.3 Phone calls made to the parents or carers of vulnerable pupils will be made using school phones where possible.
- 6.4 The DSL will keep in contact with vulnerable pupils' social workers or other care professionals during the period of remote working, as required.
- 6.5 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 pupil.
- 6.6 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 pupils learning remotely.
- 6.7 All members of staff will report any safeguarding concerns to the DSL immediately.

- 6.8 Pupils and their parents will be encouraged to contact the DSL if they wish to report safeguarding concerns, e.g. regarding harmful or upsetting content or incidents of online bullying.

## 7. Marking and Feedback

7.1 All schoolwork completed through remote learning due to self-isolation periods must be:

- Finished and returned to the relevant member of teaching staff if it is paper based or through an online learning platform that allow submission back to the teacher.
- Completed to the best of the pupil's ability.
- The pupil's own work.
- Members of staff will respond to work completed through positive comments and by feedback regarding areas for improvements or next steps where appropriate.

All schoolwork completed through remote learning due to a full lockdown period must be:

- Completed by pupils during an appropriate time period and where activities can be returned to teachers they will be submitted on time.
- Parents will engage with teachers through class emails, showing examples of the work that their children have undertaken by uploading some pictures through the email. These will be acknowledged by the class teacher e.g. through a response email, through a collaborative Teams or Zoom meeting or by displaying some of the work on our school class website pages.
- Learning packs should be returned to the class teacher once the school reopens.

7.2 The school expects pupils and staff to maintain a good work ethic during the period of remote learning.

7.3 Pupils are accountable for the completion of their own schoolwork – teaching staff will contact parents if their child is not completing their schoolwork or their standard of work has noticeably decreased.

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

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

- 7.6 The school accepts a variety of formative assessment and feedback methods, e.g. through quizzes and other digital tools from teachers, and will support them with implementing these measures for remote learning where possible.

## 8. Health and Safety

- 8.1 If using electronic devices during remote learning, pupils will be encouraged to take a thirty-minute screen break every two hours.
- 8.2 Screen break frequency will be adjusted to ten minutes every hour for younger pupils or pupils with medical conditions who require more frequent screen breaks.

## 9. School Day and Absence

- 9.1 Pupils are expected to engage with remote learning on a daily basis but timings will need to be flexible as this is dependent on access to home ICT equipment and parent/guardian work commitments.
- 9.2 Pupils with SEND or additional medical conditions who require more regular breaks, e.g. sensory breaks, are not expected to do schoolwork during their breaks.
- 9.3 Pupils who are unwell are not expected to be present for remote working until they are well enough to do so.

## 10. Communication

- 10.1 The school will ensure adequate channels of communication are arranged in the event of an emergency.
- 10.2 The school will communicate with parents via parent mail and the school website about remote learning arrangements as soon as possible.

- 10.3 The Headteacher will communicate with staff as soon as possible via email or phone about any remote learning arrangements.
- 10.4 Members of staff involved in remote teaching will ensure they have a working mobile device that is available to take phone calls during their agreed working hours.
- 10.5 The school understands that pupils 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. Parents also will recognise that teachers will also communicate as much as possible during their working hours.
- 10.6 As much as possible, all communication with pupils and their parents will take place within school hours.
- 10.7 Parents and pupils will inform the relevant member of staff as soon as possible if schoolwork cannot be completed.
- 10.8 Issues with remote learning or data protection will be communicated to the pupils' teacher as soon as possible so they can investigate and resolve the issue if it is within their power to do so.
- 10.9 The pupils' teacher will keep parents and pupils informed of any changes to the remote learning arrangements or the schoolwork set.
- 10.10 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. Returning to School

- 11.1 The Headteacher will work with the LA to ensure pupils only return to school when it is safe for them to do so.
- 11.2 After a period of self-isolation, or the lessening of local lockdown rules, the Headteacher will inform parents when their child will return to school.
- 11.3 The Headteacher will listen to all concerns that parents may have about their child returning to school and will advise them of the measures in place to ensure the safety of their child.

## 12. Considerations and Limitations

It is recognised that there are possible issues that we may face as a school that may hinder our ability to meet all of the above. The school will, however, endeavour to meet its duties of providing an accessible education for all through communication with parents, carers and members of staff. Indicated below are some of the factors that may hinder provision:

- In a full lockdown, teachers may have to look after their own young children at the same time as working

- Teachers and other members of staff themselves may be unwell
- Families may not have the right devices or enough devices at home for their family
- Communication details for parents and carers may not have been updated
- Staff work life balance may be affected by blended learning e.g. teachers performing their normal roles inside of school whilst also providing appropriate learning materials for children at home
- Disruption to learning for children who are self-isolating due to home learning materials not being the same as those taught in the classroom
- Families cannot print out worksheets
- Work set might be too paper based or rely too much on screen time
- Monitoring children's work levels whilst at home
- In a full lockdown, teachers access to some school resources may be limited

## 13. Monitoring and Review

13.1 This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Headteacher.

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

13.3 The next scheduled review date for this policy is the Autumn Term 2021

This policy should be reviewed annually by the School Development Committee and ratified by the Full Governing Body.

Log of changes and updates to the policy:

Date	Page	Change	Approver
29/9/2020	All	Policy created	
6/10/2020	All	Reviewed 1.1 review ongoing 1.5 sentence completed	SDC

		10.5 teacher working hours added	