

Willow School Policy



Remote Learning Policy

Date : May 2025

Review Date: May 2027

Aims

This remote learning policy for staff aims to:

- Ensure consistency in the approach to remote learning for pupils who aren't in school
- Set out expectations for all members of the school community with regards to remote learning
- Provide appropriate guidelines for data protection

Use of Remote Learning

All pupils should attend school, in line with our attendance policy. Remote education is not viewed as an equal alternative to attendance in school.

Pupils receiving remote education will be marked absent in line with the Pupil Registration Regulations.

We will consider providing remote education to pupils in circumstances when in-person attendance is either not possible or contrary to government guidance.

This might include:

- Occasions when we decide that opening our school is either:
 - Not possible to do safely
 - Contradictory to guidance from local or central government
- Occasions when individual pupils, for a limited duration, are unable to physically attend school but are able to continue learning, for example because:
 - They have an infectious illness
 - They are preparing for or recovering from some types of operation
 - They are recovering from injury and attendance in school may inhibit such recovery
 - Their attendance has been affected by a special educational need or disability (SEND) or a mental health issue

The school will consider providing pupils with remote education on a case-by-case basis.

In the limited circumstances when remote learning is used, we will:

- Gain mutual agreement of remote education by the school, parents/carers, pupils, and if appropriate, a relevant medical professional. If the pupil has an education, health and care (EHC) plan or social worker, the local authority (LA) will also be involved in the decision
- Put formal arrangements in place to regularly review it and identify how to reintegrate the pupil back into school
- Identify what other support and flexibilities can be put in place to help reintegrate the pupil back into school at the earliest opportunity
- Set a time limit with an aim that the pupil returns to in-person education with appropriate support

Remote education will not be used as a justification for sending pupils home due to misbehaviour. This would count as a suspension, even if the pupil is asked to access online education while suspended.

Roles and Responsibilities

Teachers

When providing remote learning, teachers must be available between their usual working hours of 8:30-3:15.

If they're unable to work for any reason during this time, for example due to sickness or caring for a dependent, they should report this using the normal absence procedure. Another staff member will be on hand to offer support to the pupil at this time.

When providing remote learning, teachers should:

- Provide pupils with access to remote education as soon as reasonably practicable, though in proportion to the length of absence and disruption to the learning of all learners
- Make reasonable adjustments for pupils with SEND to access remote education, where required, informed by relevant considerations including the support families will require and the types of services that pupils can access remotely

They are also responsible for:

- Setting work:
 - Prior to the start of the school day
 - Via Teams or email
- Making sure that work provided during periods of remote education is of high quality, meaningful, ambitious and cover an appropriate range of subjects (this may fall under the responsibility of someone else in your school)
 - This includes considering the needs of individual pupils, such as those with SEND or other additional needs, and the level of independent study skills
 - This also includes considering the needs of pupils' families or carers, including how much adult involvement is needed in each activity and whether pupils have a suitable place to study
- Providing feedback on work:
 - Via email, Microsoft Teams or live during a Teams call
 - By the end of the school day
- Keeping in touch with pupils who aren't in school and their parents:
 - Regular contact should be made via phone call, emails or Teams
 - How they should handle any complaints or concerns shared by parents and pupils – for any safeguarding concerns, refer teachers to the section below
- Attending virtual meetings with pupils and parents:
 - Ensure dress code reflects the staff policy
 - Ensure the location is professional

Teaching Assistants and Intervention Staff

When assisting with remote learning, teaching assistants must be available during their usual working hours.

If they're unable to work for any reason during this time, for example due to sickness or caring for a dependent, they should report this using the normal absence procedure.

When assisting with remote learning, teaching assistants are responsible for:

- Supporting pupils who aren't in school with learning remotely:
 - Through Teams check ins
 - Carrying out interventions over Teams
 - Facilitating meet and greets with peers
- Attending virtual meetings with teachers, parents/carers and pupils:
 - Ensure dress code reflects the staff policy
 - Ensure the location is professional

Subject Leads

Alongside their teaching responsibilities, subject leads are responsible for:

- Considering whether any aspects of the subject curriculum need to change to accommodate remote learning
- Working with teachers teaching their subject remotely to make sure all work set is appropriate and consistent
- Working with other subject leads and senior leaders to make sure work set remotely across all subjects is appropriate and consistent, and deadlines are being set an appropriate distance away from each other
- Monitoring the remote work set by teachers in their subject – explain how they'll do this, such as through regular meetings with teachers or by reviewing work set
- Alerting teachers to resources they can use to teach their subject remotely
- Making decisions about the use of online video lessons such as Oak National Academy

SENCO

The SENCO is responsible for:

- Liaising with the ICT technicians (ARK) to ensure that the technology used for remote learning is accessible to all pupils and that reasonable adjustments are made where required.
- Ensuring that pupils with EHC plans continue to have their needs met while learning remotely and liaising with the Executive Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and other organisations to make any alternate arrangements for pupils with EHCPs 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.

Headteacher

The headteacher has overarching responsibility for the quality and delivery of remote education.

The headteacher should continue to use the school's digital platform for remote education provision and make sure staff continue to be trained and are confident in its use.

They should continue to overcome barriers to digital access where possible for pupils by, for example:

- Distributing school-owned laptops accompanied by a user agreement or contract (if possible)
- Securing appropriate internet connectivity solutions where possible
- Providing printed resources, such as textbooks and workbooks, to structure learning, supplemented with other forms of communication to keep pupils on track or answer questions about work
- Having systems for checking, ideally on a daily basis, whether pupils learning remotely are engaging in its use, and work with families to rapidly identify effective solutions where engagement is a concern

They are also responsible for:

- Co-ordinating the remote learning approach across the school
- Monitoring the effectiveness of remote learning through regular meetings with teachers and subject leaders, reviewing work set and reaching out for feedback from pupils and parents/carers
- Monitoring the security of remote learning systems, including data protection and safeguarding considerations
- Ensuring staff remain trained and confident in their use of online digital education platforms
- Training staff on relevant accessibility features on Microsoft Team
- Providing information to parents/carers and pupils about remote education

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL is responsible for:

- Attending and arranging, where necessary, any safeguarding meetings that occur during the remote learning period.
- Liaising with the ICT technicians (ARK) to ensure that all technology used for remote learning is suitable for its purpose and will protect pupils online.
- 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.

ICT Technicians (Ark):

ICT technicians are responsible for:

- Ensuring that all school-owned devices used for remote learning have suitable anti-virus software installed, have a secure connection, can recover lost work, and allow for audio and visual material to be recorded, where required.
- Ensuring that any programs or networks used for remote learning can effectively support a large number of users at one time, where required, e.g. undertaking 'stress' testing.
- Working with the SENCO to ensure that the equipment and technology used for learning remotely is accessible to all pupils and staff.

Pupils and Parents/Carers

Staff can expect pupils learning remotely to:

- Be contactable during the school day – although consider they may not always be in front of a device the entire time
- Complete work to the deadline set by teachers
- Seek help if they need it, from teachers or teaching assistants
- Alert teachers if they're not able to complete work
- Act in accordance with normal behaviour rules / conduct rules of the school (and any specific online behaviour rules where applicable)

Staff can expect parents/carers with children learning remotely to:

- Engage with the school and support their children's learning, and to establish a routine that reflects the normal school day as far as reasonably possible
- Make the school aware if their child is sick or otherwise can't complete work
- Seek help from the school if they need it
- Be respectful when making any complaints or concerns known to staff

Governing Board

The governing board is responsible for:

- Monitoring the school's approach to providing remote learning to ensure education remains of as high a quality as possible
- Ensuring that staff are certain that remote learning systems are appropriately secure, for both data protection and safeguarding reasons

Data Protection

This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's GDPR Policy.

- Staff members will be responsible for adhering to the GDPR when teaching remotely and will ensure the confidentiality and integrity of their devices at all times.
- Sensitive data will only be transferred between devices if it is necessary to do so for the purpose of remote learning and teaching.
- Any data that is transferred between devices will be suitably encrypted or have other data protection measures in place so that if the data is lost, stolen, or subject to unauthorised access, it remains safe until recovered.
- Parents' and pupils' up-to-date contact details will be collected prior to the period of remote learning.
- All contact details will be stored in line with the GDPR Policy.
- The school will not permit paper copies of contact details to be taken off the school premises.

- Pupils are not permitted to let their family members or friends use any school-owned equipment which contains personal data.
- Any breach of confidentiality will be dealt with in accordance with the school's GDPR Policy.
- Any intentional breach of confidentiality will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy or the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

Safeguarding

This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

- The DSL and headteacher will identify 'vulnerable' pupils (pupils who are deemed to be vulnerable or are at risk of harm) via risk assessment prior to the period of remote learning.
- The DSL will arrange for regular contact to be made with vulnerable pupils, prior to the period of remote learning.
- Phone calls made to vulnerable pupils will be made using school phones where possible.
- The DSL will arrange for regular contact with vulnerable pupils once per week at minimum, with additional contact, arranged where required.
- All contact with vulnerable pupils will be recorded on BromCom and suitably stored in line with the GDPR Policy.
- The DSL will keep in contact with vulnerable pupils' social workers or other care professionals during the period of remote working, as required.
- Vulnerable pupils will be provided with a means of contacting the DSL, their deputy, or any other relevant member of staff – this arrangement will be set up by the DSL prior to the period of remote learning.
- 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.
- All members of staff will report any safeguarding concerns to the DSL immediately.

Monitoring Arrangements

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

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

Links with Other Policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Safeguarding policy
- Data protection policy and privacy notices
- Home-school agreement

- ICT and internet acceptable use policy
- Online safety policy