



Remote Learning Policy

Our Mission

"Together we work as one family to ensure excellence for all."

Our Vision

To be an ambitious, inclusive, collaborative family of schools, ensuring fullness of life and excellence in education, whilst celebrating individuality.

Policy Reviewed and Adopted by Board of Directors:	Autumn Term 2025
Date of Next Review:	Autumn Term 2027
Responsible Officer:	Lindsey Vollans

1. 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

2. 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

There should only be limited circumstances where a pupil is unable to attend school but is able and well enough to continue their education remotely. These circumstances should only involve a short-term absence and might include pupils:

- recovering from short-term infectious illnesses
- preparing for or recovering from some operations
- recovering from injuries where attendance might inhibit recovery

In some exceptional cases, these circumstances might also include pupils whose attendance has been affected by a special educational need or disability (SEND) or a mental health issue. In these circumstances, after the pupil's absence from school has been established, we will consider providing pupils with remote education on a case-by-case basis. This should be part of a plan to reintegrate back to school, and only when it is judged by professionals that providing remote education would not adversely affect the pupil's return to school.

Provision of remote education should be made as a short-term solution allowing absent pupils to keep on track with their education. Pupils with long-term medical conditions or any other physical or mental health needs which affect attendance may need more support to continue their education.

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 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 (4 – 6 weeks) 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.

Working with the local authority

Under section 19 of the Education Act 1996 (s.19 duty) local authorities are responsible for arranging suitable education for children of compulsory school age who, because of health or other reasons, would otherwise not receive a suitable education.

Statutory guidance on education for children with health needs who cannot attend school sets out that local authorities should provide education as soon as it is clear that the child will be away from school for 15 school days or more during the school year, whether consecutive or cumulative.

The s.19 duty sits with the local authority. Our schools should work closely with them and any relevant medical professionals to ensure children with health needs are fully supported at school, including putting in place individual healthcare plans if appropriate. This may involve, for example, programmes of study that rely on a flexible approach which include agreed periods of remote education.

What to consider when providing remote education to individual pupils

When a pupil is absent, the school should always seek to overcome the barriers to attendance and provide support for the pupil to attend, regularly reviewing any barriers with:

- the pupil
- parents or carers
- if appropriate, a relevant medical professional

Remote education should not be viewed as an equal alternative to attendance in school. Providing remote education during a pupil's absence does not reduce the importance of bringing that absence to an end as soon as possible.

In the limited circumstances when the school and Local Authority decides to use remote education for individual pupils when they are absent, remote education will be provided through high quality lessons developed by external providers such as Oak National Academy and the following should be considered:

- Ensuring mutual agreement of remote education by the school, parents or carers, potentially pupils, and if appropriate a relevant medical professional. If the pupil has an education, health and care plan or has a social worker, the local authority should also be involved in the decision.
- Where remote education is being used as part of a plan to reintegrate back to school, putting a formal arrangement in place to review its efficacy regularly, alongside identifying what other support and flexibilities can be put in place to help ease the pupil back to school at the earliest opportunity.
- Setting a time limit (4 – 6 weeks) within which the period of remote education provision should be reviewed, with the aim that the pupil returns to in person education with the required support in place to meet their needs.
- Age, stage of development, and independent study skills.
- Any SEND or other additional needs the pupils might have.
- The pupils' home environment, which includes having a suitable place and opportunity to study.
- Screen time, making reasonable allowances for adequate breaks for pupils and staff during digital remote education.

Work provided during periods of remote education should aim to be high quality, meaningful, ambitious, and cover an appropriate range of subjects to enable pupils to keep on track with their education.

Due to data permissions and safeguarding concerns, schools will not live-stream lessons from within classes.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 Teachers

When providing remote learning to the class, teachers must be available between 9am and 3.30pm.

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 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

3.2 Senior leaders

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

Alongside any teaching responsibilities, senior leaders 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

3.3 Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)

The DSL is responsible for ensuring appropriate safeguards are in place and that concerns are dealt with appropriately.

3.4 Pupils and parents/carers

Staff can expect pupils learning remotely to:

- Be contactable during the school day – although it would be reasonable to be away from the front of a device for some of the time
- Complete work to the deadlines 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 of school and online expectations.

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 complaints or concerns known to staff

3.5 Board of Directors

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 system are appropriately secure, for both data protection and safeguarding reasons.

4. Who to contact

If staff have any questions or concerns about remote learning, they should contact their Headteacher.

5. Data protection

5.1 Accessing personal data

When accessing personal data for remote learning purposes, all staff members will:

Explain:

- How they can access the data, such as on a secure cloud service or a server in your IT network
- Which devices they should use to access the data – if you've provided devices, such as laptops, make staff use these rather than their own personal devices

5.2 Processing personal data

Staff members may need to collect and/or share personal data such as email addresses, support plans, EHCP documents part of the remote learning system. As long as this processing is necessary for the school's official functions, individuals won't need to give permission for this to happen. The school will follow its data protection policy / privacy notice in terms of handling data.

However, staff are reminded to collect and/or share as little personal data as possible online, and to remind themselves of their duties in terms of data protection in accordance with the school's policies and procedures.

5.3 Keeping devices secure

All staff members will take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Keeping the device password-protected – strong passwords are at least 8 characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters (e.g. asterisk or currency symbol)
- Ensuring the hard drive is encrypted – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device
- Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time
- Not sharing the device among family or friends
- Installing antivirus and anti-spyware software
- Keeping operating systems up to date – always install the latest updates

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the CEO. At every review, it will be approved by the Board of Directors.

7. Links with other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour and Positive Relationships Policy
- Child protection policy and Safeguarding Policy
- Data protection policy and privacy notices
- Parental Code of Conduct
- Home-school agreement
- ICT and internet acceptable use policy
- Online safety policy