Devonshire Park Primary School

Remote Learning Policy

Approved by Governors

October 2020

Introduction

During a period of long term closure, staff at Devonshire Park Primary School will continue to provide education and support to our children using remote learning. All learning will be conducted using the Tapestry and Office Google Classroom apps. This will allow staff to keep in daily contact in a professional and confidential manner with their class. Teachers will be able to schedule learning in a manner that does not overwhelm our children. Teaching and learning can be tailored, changed and updated as time progresses, allowing for replication of classroom activity to the best of our ability. In all communications we will prioritise the wellbeing of our children.

Rational

Rational in the event of a school closure, the school is committed to providing continuity of education to its learners and will do so through a process of remote (online) learning. Extensive remote learning would apply particularly in a situation in which the school is closed for an extended period of time, but a high proportion of learners and teachers are healthy, and able to work as normal from home. This policy does not normally apply in the event of short-term school closures (e.g. as a result of 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 school work at home. Another relevant instance would be if, following an infectious disease outbreak, learners are self-isolating at home but are not suffering with relevant symptoms.

Remote learning for individual learners

Assuming an absence has been agreed with the school, 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 collation of work and communication with the parent/carer will be coordinated by the learner's teacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Though every case will have its own specifics, a rough guideline for the frequency of communication between school and parent/carer would be once per week. Work will only be provided to learners in this way if there is an agreed absence lasting more than three working days.

If a significant number of learners are absent from school, but the school remains open, the Head teacher will decide whether the method of remote learning operated will take the form outlined here, or as outlined below.

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:

- Regular direct instruction from teaching teachers, with the ability of learners to ask questions online via Tapestry and Google Classroom
- The setting of work that learners complete, written responses (if relevant) completed electronically

Learners and teachers are expected to have access to the internet whilst at home; the school recognises that many families may not have home printers and will therefore try to reduce the amount of work that will require the printing of material.

The primary platforms the school will use to deliver continuity of education are:

Tapestry – Foundation 1 & 2

Google Classroom – KS1 & KS 2

LbQ KS 2

The extent to which different methods of instruction are employed is likely to be determined by the length of any school closure and the ability of both learners and teachers to participate in remote learning. The school reserves the right to vary the range of methods used to provide remote learning tasks, feedback and interaction, based on the particular circumstances of any closure and based on our experience.

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 endeavour to provide regular feedback to learners on pieces of work that they are required to submit. Under normal circumstances, not all pieces of work are formally assessed by teachers and this would continue to be the case should the school employ remote learning.

Given the nature of the tasks, the type of feedback teachers can provide may not have the same format as marking an exercise book. Teachers are encouraged to ensure, when they set assessed work, that it is designed in such a way that meaningful feedback may be provided.

Expectations of learners

Assuming that a learner is healthy and well enough to work, learners will be expected to participate as fully as possible in the remote learning process, attending relevant live sessions, completing independent work, and submitting assessed tasks promptly and to the best of their ability

If learners or parents have any questions about the nature of specific tasks set, these should be directed towards the teacher through the online google classroom or Tapestry

Teachers must work on the assumption that learners will not necessarily have the full range of books and equipment that they would usually have in school. However, if advance notice is possible, teachers will instruct learners to take relevant equipment from their lockers home, or for parents to ensure they have duplicates. The school does not expect learners to have access to any specialist equipment that would usually be provided by the school (e.g. science or art). Teachers should ensure they are able to scan or upload photos of important resources in case learners do not have access to them at home.

The school expects that parents have internet access at home to access remote learning resources, but teachers will make no presumption of the learner's ability to print at home.

Expectations of teachers

Teachers should ensure they have effective internet and a phone connectivity at home. If this is not available for any reason, teachers can request a school device.

All teachers should pay due care to the nature of tasks set, so that learners have a range of activities to complete at home and are not exclusively working on a screen. Teachers are responsible for providing constructive feedback to their learners in a timely manner.

In the event a teacher is unwell during a period of remote learning, it becomes the responsibility of the line manager to ensure work is set to her/his classes.

Teachers should be available to contact parents if needed, by email or phone (when phoning from personal devices, dialling 141 before the number will ensure the teacher's own number is kept anonymous). If contact is deemed excessive the line manager will be able to support and, if necessary, escalate to SLT.

In order to ensure teachers are able to perform the minimum expectations outlined above; the school will provide a range of training opportunities that teachers should access to before any planned school closure. Teachers should ensure that they have looked through specific instructions, watched walkthroughs, and attended teacher training sessions. If teachers require support with any aspects of remote learning, they are encouraged to consult their line managers or the Senior Leadership team.

Unless there are extenuating circumstances, teachers will be expected to be contactable remotely by colleagues, learners and parents. All communication should take place during usual office hours, with no expectation for colleagues to read or respond to emails after 4.30pm, although responses should be made to electronic messages within one working day in normal practice. For those who are on part-time contracts, communication is expected only on the days on which they would usually work.

Communication must always occur via official school channels, and not through personal accounts or other websites. Permitted methods are:

- Email using school email addresses only

- Tapestry

- Google Classroom

Support for pupils with SEND, EAL and other specific learning enhancement needs

Teachers should ensure that work is differentiated as required for all learners when setting online tasks. Profiles are available for SEND pupils and advice can be sought from the SENDCo. In addition, the SENDCo in will maintain contact with pupils on their lists requiring regular support, by email or phone with parents/learners and feed back to teachers using CPOMS if required.

Pastoral care during a school closure

In event of a school closure, the primary responsibility for the pastoral care of a learner rests with their parents / carers. However, teachers (under the guidance of the Senior Leadership Team) should check in regularly to monitor both academic progress and their general wellbeing. Teachers will be expected to pass on feedback to Senior Leadership Team, particularly if there are concerns or a lack of communication.

Safeguarding during a school closure

In the event of a school closure, pupils, parents, carers and teachers are reminded that the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy still applies to all interactions between pupils and teachers. In that policy, there are specifically prohibited behaviours and reporting obligations to which teachers must adhere, whether they are at home, in the community or at school.