St Mary's

Catholic Primary School

Remote Education Policy

2021-22

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Contents page

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1. **Remote education provision: information for parents**

This information is intended to provide clarity and transparency to pupils and parents/carers about what to expect from remote education in a case when national or local restrictions require entire cohorts (or bubbles) to remain at home.

For details of what to expect **where individual pupils are self-isolating having tested positive for Covid**, please see the final section of this policy.

2. **The remote curriculum: teaching pupils at home**

A pupil's first day or two of being educated remotely might look different from our standard approach, while we take all necessary actions to prepare for a longer period of remote teaching.

What should my child expect from immediate remote education in the first day or two of pupils being sent home?

Remote learning will be available at the start of the first full day after notice has been given of school closure (this will be dependent on the notification given of whole school closure).

Every pupil has access to eSchools where tasks will be set to be completed remotely.

In the case of a whole school closure, a whole school approach with timetables for live learning will be shared with all pupils via eSchools. Live teaching via MS Teams, will occur at regular timetabled timeslots, lasting for 30 minutes, plus an additional written task that should be completed and submitted afterwards.

Parents will be kept up to date of closures via School Comms (text messages), email distribution lists, Twitter and the school website.

Following the first few days of remote education, will my child be taught broadly the same curriculum as they would if they were in school?

Remote learning may be different from the teaching that your child experiences in school on a regular day to day basis. However, staff will plan to match the content delivery as closely as possible. To this end, St Mary's staff will teach the same curriculum remotely as we do in school. Each child will have a daily English and Maths lesson, taught via MS Teams, with a

task to be completed afterwards. Where possible, additional reading groups will be planned for to take place as 'live' sessions, also.

Some curriculum areas will need to be adapted. For instance, PE may be a directed task that uses other resources (such as Joe Wicks or another task) or a recorded session applicable to that year band.

For subject areas such as RE and Science, two weekly tasks will be set. Other foundation subjects, such as History or Geography will be taught via Topic with PowerPoints uploaded to support children's learning.

Subjects such as DT or Music will be adapted and delivered in a very different way and will be dependent on what we can reasonably expect children to have at their disposal at home.

It is not our intention that our pupils are expected to sit in front of an electronic device all day every day, as this would not be in their best interests and so we encourage other, alternative activities to be completed that align to family living too.

3. Remote teaching and study time each day

How long can I expect work set by the school to take my child each day?

We expect that remote education (including remote teaching and independent work) will take pupils broadly the following number of hours each day:

Reception	**This provision consists of 2-3 hours** - including online live lessons, recorded lesson links, practical activities, physical activities, non-computer based play activity suggestions, daily phonics activities as well as tasks set on online platforms. We do not require children to be using a screen for all of this time.
Key Stage 1	**This provision consists of 3 hours** – including online live lessons delivered via MS Teams, recorded lesson links, practical activities, physical activities, daily reading, phonics and times tables activities as well as tasks set on online platforms. This should be spaced out to suit the individual child and family circumstances. We do not require children to be using a screen for all of this time.

Key Stage 2	**This provision consists of activities lasting 4 hours** - including two online live lessons delivered via MS Teams, group or whole class reading sessions (where possible and practical), recorded lesson links, practical activities, physical activities, daily reading and times tables activities as well as tasks set on online platforms. This should be spaced out to suit the individual child and family circumstances. We do not require children to be using a screen for all of this time.

Reading occurs daily in all classes from Reception to Y6. Tasks are set with some staff interventions.

Online library (SORA reading app) is set up and children are expected to read individually everyday - with the encouragement and support of parents.

4. Accessing remote education

How will my child access any online remote education you are providing?

Every child has a login to the school VLE provided by eSchools. This can be accessed via the website www.stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk - every parent has a corresponding login where they can see messages and tasks and class pages relevant to their child.
If a username or password needs to be reset, please email
forgottenpassword@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk
Links for MS Teams will be shared via a message on eSchools. They are to be attended daily. We understand that children may not be able to complete all of the learning set for that day at the given time – however, they should make every effort to view the recorded lesson at some point in the day. Teachers will use their professional discretion when monitoring learning and the tasks submitted and, if necessary, have conversations with the child and their parents to offer help and support. Pupils who are unwell are not required to attend live lessons and complete learning but parents must notify school of the illness.

Additional platforms that are used – such as Scratch, Numbots or TimesTable Rock Stars – have additional login details and tasks can be completed on these platforms also, as directed by teaching staff.

If my child does not have digital or online access at home, how will you support them to access remote education?

We recognise that some pupils may not have suitable online access at home. We take the following approaches to support those pupils to access remote education:

- We have access to a limited supply of school devices that can be borrowed. Parents who require such devices should contact school via enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk for more information. Parents and carers will be expected to sign up to our acceptable use agreements and a loan agreement.

- Securus, our monitoring software is installed on loan devices and they should <u>only be used by the child to which they have been provided.</u>

- We have a limited number of Vodafone SIM cards available to parents if they do not have access to data. These can be accessed by contacting the school office and instructions will be given on how to access the internet using the SIM.

- Paper learning packs and additional home learning packs can be provided if required but only if absolutely necessary. These must be collected from school.

5. How will my child be taught remotely?

St Mary's will use a range of approaches to teach pupils remotely.

Some examples of remote teaching include:

- live teaching (online lessons) via MS Teams. This will happen twice daily and are timetabled to avoid clashes within families/ limited device access
- use of Teams to facilitate small group sessions within a live lesson
- intervention groups (on a 1:1 or small group basis) with teachers/TAs
- recorded teaching (e.g. Oak National Academy lessons, video/audio recordings made by teachers via additional platforms, such as an audio recording over a PowerPoint)
- printed paper packs produced by teachers (e.g. workbooks, worksheets that may include examples from textbooks) and reading books pupils have at home
- commercially available websites (such as BBC) supporting the teaching of specific subjects or areas, including video clips or sequences
- independent internet research activities
- practical activities (such as Art, DT and Music) that can be evidenced with photos or recordings and sent into school.

6. Engagement and feedback expectations

What are your expectations for my child's engagement and the support that we as parents and carers should provide at home?

St Mary's recognises that remote learning is a challenge for everyone and parents are often working at home at the same time as supporting remote learning. We ask for parents to support the school with children's learning.

- At the start of every live session, expectations of behaviour for the session are shared. Please support us in this approach and direct your children to meet these expectations.

- We expect **all** pupils to take part in all daily learning tasks and activities. Pupils should attend their timetabled live lessons every day unless they are unwell. In circumstances where this is not possible, we expect parents/carers to contact the school and seek support. If a child is not attending, and we know that the child has access to a device, school will be calling to chase attendance and work completion. We expect parents/ carers to support their child to engage in school's daily activities.

The best way you can support your child is by:

- Keeping a good home routine for bedtime and getting up in the morning.
- Get your child up, dressed and ready for school by 9am, which is the timing of the first live session.
- Support your child to access the daily timetables that are sent by eSchools. For younger children, parents may need to support them to log in to live lessons at the correct time.
- Speak to a member of staff by contacting school if you feel that the learning needs adapting or changing for your child or you are having trouble accessing anything.

We will keep in regular contact with parents via text messaging (School Comms), weekly newsletter, phone calls home, school website, school social media via Twitter @StMaryB17, letters and email.

How will you check whether my child is engaging with their work and how will I be informed if there are concerns?

Teachers will be making daily checks on attendance of children in their live lessons and will contact any children who have not attended

- Work submitted on assignments will be provided with feedback where appropriate

- Online learning websites will be checked weekly where these have been provided as part of the learning

- School staff will be making phone calls to children without access to devices weekly to ensure that they are accessing the paper-based tasks they have been set.

- Where we are concerned about a child's lack of attendance at live lessons or completion of work, and this has continued over a number of sessions, class teachers or SLT will make a phone call home to offer help and support to parents.

- A member of our Safeguarding Team may contact the family to find out if there is an issue. Where there are still concerns apparent, a home visit to the family may be completed.

- Where children have been identified as not accessing remote education and live lessons despite having a device and internet available to them the school will consider arranging for the child to attend school under the vulnerable child not accessing education category.

7. **Assessment and feedback**

How will you assess my child's work? Work and progress?

Feedback can take many forms and may not always mean extensive written comments for individual children. For example, whole-class feedback or quizzes marked automatically via digital platforms are also valid and effective methods, amongst many others. Our approach to feeding back on pupil work is as follows:

Our approach to feedback on work will vary depending on the amount of work set but may include the following:

- Verbal feedback via Microsoft Teams during live teaching. Additional assignments will be electronically marked and feedback provided to the child via eSchools

- Teachers may choose to set online quizzes which are marked automatically

- Online learning lessons: work submitted via email or Teams will be returned to children individually with comment

- Where remote education is utilised for a sustained period of time such as a term, staff will endeavour to provide feedback to parents/carers via a telephone call home or a progress check report.

- Where there are concerns that a child's learning is not reflective of their ability, the parent/carer may receive a call or email from the school office requesting a remote meeting with their child's class teacher.

8. Additional support for pupils with particular needs

How will you work with me to help my child who needs additional support from adults at home to access remote education?

We recognise that some pupils, for example some pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), may not be able to access remote education without support from adults at home. We acknowledge the difficulties this may place on families, and we will work with parents and carers to support those pupils in the following ways:

- Via the school website, the school will signpost parents to local support services and will make use of the school website and newsletter to promote online events for parents and carers of children with SEND
- Parents are encouraged to contact their child's class teacher in the first instance to discuss any learning concerns.
- Offer of access to a school-based learning provision can be made for pupils deemed to be vulnerable but the final decision remains with the school.
- Personalised learning tasks for pupils with a SEND/barrier to learning can be set where needed
- School can also be contacted by emailing enquiry@stmaryrc.bham.sch.uk and this can be passed onto the SLT or our SENDCo as appropriate
- Our SENDCo will work with SLT and DSLs to provide support where necessary
- We are happy to support by offering practical resources to support learning for pupils with SEND where possible but **the first port is always the class teacher**

- 1:1 and small group provision will be provided by additional members of teaching staff as the school decides is appropriate.

9. Remote education for self-isolating pupils

Pupils not attending school but are well enough to access learning will be provided with remote education.

The school will keep a record of who is accessing this and will monitor engagement.

Where individual pupils need to self-isolate, but the majority of their peer group remains in school, how remote education is provided will likely differ from the approach for whole groups. This is due to the challenges of teaching pupils both at home and in school.

If my child is not in school because they are self-isolating, how will their remote education differ from the approaches described above?

Pupils will be provided with the work being competed in school via their eSchools account. This will take the form of a PowerPoint and a task to be completed for each lesson undertaken in school.

Live learning is not always possible when the majority of the class are in school. However, the class teacher may engage with the child via Teams where appropriate and invite the child or children to join in, with the learning facilitated by a teaching assistant.

Weekly email/phone contact will be initiated to check how the child is progressing before their return once the period of isolation is over.