

STEEPLE NURSERY SCHOOL

Remote and Blended Learning Policy



December 2020

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Introduction

The Covid-19 Pandemic has resulted in a greater emphasis for the need of remote learning. When schools were closed in March 2020 we had to move teaching and learning online. As this is a fluid situation it is likely that there may be times when staff and pupils will be required to engage in remote or blended learning. This policy provides information on how we will deal with any situation of working from home, for example when we are in lockdown or when we experience periods of isolation.

Aims:

- To outline Steeple Nursery School's approach for pupils that will not be attending school for periods of time from September 2020 due to enforced school closure, where a class bubble is directed to self isolate due to a positive case in school or if a child is required to self isolate due to being identified as a close contact outside of school.
- To outline Steeple Nursery School's expectations for staff that may not be attending school for periods of time from September 2020 due to self isolation, but who are still well and healthy and able to continue supporting with teaching, assessment and planning, and still able to contribute to overall staff development.

Remote Learning is when the children and staff are not physically in the classroom environment. The Teacher, supported by the Nursery Assistants, will provide activities and information through an online platform, (Steeple Nursery School use Seesaw), and children/parents have the option to return work/activities. The platform should allow communication between the teacher and the children/parents.

Blended Learning is when some children in a class may be at home engaging in remote learning while some children are in school with the staff receiving face to face teaching.

In line with government guidance people should self isolate and book a test if they are displaying any of the following symptoms:

- A high temperature above 37.8 degrees
- A new and continuous cough
- A loss of, or change to, their sense of taste or smell

Pupils, staff and families should self isolate, currently for 10 days, if they:

- receive a positive test
- are identified as a close contact of a positive case

Possible scenarios that will result in a form of remote or blended learning:

- Whole class bubble or school to isolate for a period of time
- Pupils or staff to remain at home for a period of time due to isolating or medical conditions.
- Correspondence, updates and activities shared with parents via the online platform in place of paper copies. Paper copies will be available upon request also.

How remote/blended learning will be delivered (when a child or group of children are isolating):

- Nursery School is not statutory therefore staff will not be able to deliver a full programme to children who are isolating.
- A full teaching programme equivalent to what would take place in the classroom will not be possible to be delivered to children who are home isolating as many of our teaching strategies and activities are very practical and require a hands on approach.
- Staff will not be able, and be expected to deliver a full day programme as they will be dealing with the practical demands of teaching and carrying out their daily routine which includes rigorous cleaning of all classrooms and resources between bubbles/classes due to Covid-19.
- Every 6 weeks a set of activities will be posted on seesaw relating to our theme and the learning potential that we will be implementing in the classroom. All children can access these activities whether they are isolating or not. The staff will comment and give feedback on the photos/videos posted of the activities from those children who are isolating. Parents are also invited to look at seesaw regularly to discuss the activities that children are engaging in in class. This will prompt discussion and ideas for home learning opportunities.
- The main aim of this delivery of blended learning is to maintain links and support the child/children when returning to school and settling back in quickly.
- These are very strange and uncertain times so we want to reassure parents that completion of these activities is not compulsory.
- Each family should approach and implement home learning in a way that suits them. We are not imposing expectations, we want to support and guide families.

The role of the family (parent and child):

- We recommend that if children are isolating, families engage in some home learning each day if possible, and if they are feeling well and healthy.
- We encourage our parents to spend time reading, talking and playing with their children to develop speech, language, communication and play skills.
- A daily story would be highly recommended during isolation or lockdown.
- Provide children with opportunities to develop independence, such as, dressing themselves, using the toilet and hand washing.

Remote learning during whole class self isolation periods:

- When a whole class or school are closed staff will plan learning and activities/stories will be posted on seesaw.
- Families should complete these activities at their convenience and fit them round their individual schedules. We do not want families to feel pressured to complete these. As mentioned before we recommend talking, reading and playing with your child daily which will be of utmost value to your child.
- There is an option for parents to share children's work on Seesaw in the form of pictures, videos and a brief description via written or voice message. The staff will then provide feedback in the form of a written message, voice message, video or photo. Staff may ask for permission to share work with others on Seesaw or on our website or School Facebook Page. The sharing of children's work on Seesaw can help maintain the links and relationships between the children.
- If any family has any difficulty connecting to Seesaw or accessing the activities they should contact school.

The role of the staff:

- Staff should plan learning opportunities and activities that link to the current topic and the pre school curriculum.
- These learning opportunities can be supported with videos, photos, voice messages, written instructions and links to signpost them to a website or resource that will enhance their learning.
- These will be posted on seesaw.
- If a family are experiencing any difficulties regarding seesaw, we will endeavour to provide the family with a paper copy, if possible in relation to Covid-19 guidance and restrictions.
- We will plan activities that will be practical and possible for children to complete at home, using resources that most families will have at home.

Remote working for staff who are self isolating:

- If a member of staff is required to self isolate, and if able and fit to work, they will contribute to school life. They will contribute to planning and assessment virtually, and provide support with the Seesaw activities if needed. They may also be asked to complete some training online to further enhance their and the whole school's personal and professional development. They may also be given an individual project, allocated by the Principal, to work on which links in to the school improvement plans and School Development Action Plans.

All activities and learning opportunities provided during these periods of isolation or lockdown will support the Pre-School Curriculum (Curricular Guidance for Pre-School Education set out by DE and CCEA).

The learning will incorporate the six areas of the curriculum:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Early Language Development
- Physical Development
- Early Mathematical Development
- The Arts
- The World Around Us

The learning activities and opportunities will take into account all children. Those who have an Individual Educational Plan will be provided with activities which support their targets. If a child has a 1;1 support their assistant may provide activities for them with the support of the class teacher.

Seesaw App (Please also refer to our Seesaw Policy):

- Seesaw is an excellent communication tool between school and home.
- We strongly recommend that one parent from each family connects to Seesaw.
- In line with GDPR parental consent is sought to use the Seesaw App with families.
- Teachers will post updates and share information when required.
- Staff will respond as quickly as possible to Seesaw posts within their school day hours.
- Families must not expect responses to Seesaw outside school hours.
- If an urgent issue arises please contact Mrs Z Scarlett, the Principal, on steepnursery@outlook.com
- Staff are advised to avoid responding to Seesaw posts in the evenings and at the weekends.

Approved by Board of Governors: December 2020

Reviewed Regularly