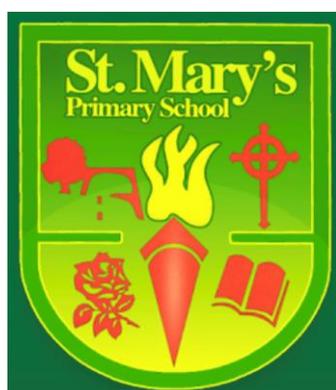


# Remote Learning Policy



St Mary's Primary School

Banbridge

Updated January 2021

## **Introduction**

In the event of long term closure, staff at St Mary's Primary School will continue to provide education and support to our children using remote learning. Learning will be conducted using the Seesaw Class App and Home Learning Portal on the school website. This will allow staff to keep in daily contact and provide a two-way platform for learning and teaching, in a professional and confidential manner with each pupil in their class. Teachers will be able to schedule learning in a manner that does not overwhelm or concern our pupils. Teaching and learning can be tailored, changed and updated as time progresses, in accordance with DE circular 2020/06, allowing for replication of classroom activity to the best of our ability. In all communications we will adhere to our commitment to maintaining pupil wellbeing.

## **Flexibility of Learning**

We realise that the circumstances that cause our school to close will affect families in a number of ways. In our planning and expectations, we are aware of the need for flexibility from all sides:

- Parents may be trying to work from home so access to technology as a family may be limited;
- Parents may have two or more children trying to access technology and need to prioritise the needs of young people studying towards GCSE/ A Level accreditation;
- Access to appropriate technology or Internet access within the home may be non-existent;
- Teachers may be trying to manage their home situation and the learning of their own children;
- Systems may not always function as they should.

An understanding of and willingness to adapt to these difficulties is essential for success for everyone.

## **Expectation Management**

We believe that it is in the best interests of our children that we continue to provide structured support to the best of our ability. Due to various factors affecting each household, flexibility will be required with regard to submission of work and/ or feedback. It must be noted that the work children engage in during a period of closure will be part of our current planning and so parents should strive to achieve the targets set for their children and seek guidance from the school if required. Children and parents should consider the arrangements as set out in this document as highly recommended. Parents of children not engaging with remote learning will be contacted by the school to ascertain reasons why they have not engaged.

The school can supply iPads, Chromebooks and BT internet vouchers to parents who need them. All children will be provided with a pack of work to mirror their work on Seesaw.

Teaching Staff will:

- Share learning and teaching activities with their class through Seesaw Class App and Home Learning Portal on the school website;
- Continue teaching in line with current, extensive planning that is already in place throughout the school;
- Accept the fact that learning remotely will be more difficult, so tasks will be altered allow for this;
- Keep in contact with children through the Seesaw Class App and school website;
- Reply to messages, set work and give feedback on activities during the normal teaching hours;
- Allow flexibility in the completion of activities, understanding that the circumstances leading to our closure will affect families in a number of ways;
- Take regular breaks away from the computer or iPad to engage in other professional duties as much as circumstances allow e.g. Policy Development;
- If unwell themselves, be covered by another staff member for the sharing of

activities. Follow up of messages on Seesaw Class App during this time may not be undertaken until the teacher is fit to work.

Children will:

- Be assured that wellbeing is a priority and take regular breaks, get fresh air, exercise and maintain a reasonable balance between online engagement and offline activities;
- Try their best to complete work set on Seesaw Class App regularly;
- Send the required number of completed pieces of work as directed by his/her teacher;
- Send messages and queries that are in relation to tasks set by the teacher or in response to questions the teacher may ask them directly;
- Only access material shared by their teacher and ask for parental permission to use technology for anything beyond that;
- Be appropriately dressed and prepared for video conference calls with their class teacher and assistant;
- Read daily, either independently or with an adult;
- Continue to use online learning programmes such as Lexia and Sumdog on a regular basis;
- Consider using the school closure time to learn a new skill, follow their own interests to discover more about the world around us or just be creative.
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Parents will:

- Support their child's learning to the best of their ability;
- Encourage their child to access and engage with Seesaw posts from their teacher;
- Refrain from screenshotting or copying any information, messages or posts to share on social media or any other platform outside of the Seesaw Class App;
- Ensure that their child/ren are appropriately dressed and prepared for video

- conference calls from the class teacher;
- Know they can continue to contact their class teacher as normal through the Seesaw Class App if they require support of any kind;
  - Collect their child's home learning work pack when ready;
  - Check their child's completed work each day and encourage the progress that is being made;
  - Be mindful of mental wellbeing of both themselves and their child and encourage their child to take regular breaks, play games, get fresh air and relax.

N.B. In compliance with Copyright Law and regulations governing the use of photocopiable materials. They must not be printed, photocopied or distributed. The school will not take responsibility for any breach of Copyright Law.

### **Access to Remote Systems**

All school systems for remote learning, including Seesaw Class App, Lexia, Sumdog and the school website, are available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. Secure usernames and passwords have been distributed to pupils, however they should contact their class teacher in the event of being unable to access any of the systems for remote learning. A secure password has been issued to parents to enable access to the Home Learning Portal on the school website. Parents and pupils are reminded of the importance of keeping usernames and passwords confidential at all times.

### **Monitoring and Review**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Digital Safety and Acceptable Use Policy, Seesaw Policy, GDPR Policy, Health and Safety Policy and Child Protection Policy.

This policy is implemented on a day-to-day basis by all school staff and is monitored by the Principal.

*This policy and its implementation will be reviewed annually or as required.*