Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School

Remote Learning Policy



November 2020 in Response to the Coronavirus Outbreak.

**UNCRC Article 28: Children have the right to the best possible education.**

Signed by the Chair of the Board of Governors:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In the event of long term closure, or self-isolation, staff at Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School will continue to provide education and support to our pupils using remote learning.

Teachers will only engage in remote learning when:

* The entire class are self-isolating as they have been identified as being a close contact of a positive case of Covid-19
* An individual pupil is self-isolating long term, due to individual circumstances (teachers will be unable to respond to Seesaw throughout the school day in this case)
* Teachers are well enough to do so. If a teacher is sick during a period of remote learning, the school will endeavour to ensure a sub teacher is appointed to take over remote learning, however this may not always be possible or practical

In this case, all learning will be conducted using the Seesaw app. This will allow staff to keep in regular contact, 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, 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. Remote learning cannot be compared to face to face classroom teaching, we believe that this is the most effective way to deliver the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

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 and so access to technology as a family may be limited; 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 on all sides is essential for success and for us to continue the positive working relationships between home, school and our community.

In the case of long term closure, we believe that it is in the best interests of our pupils that we continue to provide structured support to the best of our ability. Bearing in mind the need for flexibility, we understand that work maybe completed out of sync with when it is shared and as such, no deadlines will be set. That said, the work that pupils engage in during a period of closure will be part of our current planning and so cannot be considered as optional. Pupils and parents should consider the arrangements as set out in this document as highly recommended.

**Teaching and Learning Support assistants will work together to:**

* Share teaching and activities with their class on a weekly and daily basis.
* Continue teaching in line with current, extensive planning that is already in place throughout the school.
* Give credence to the fact that learning remotely will be more difficult, so tasks will be shortened and supported in smaller steps to allow for this.
* Keep in contact with parents/pupils through the Seesaw app, or via the school office if appropriate.
* Reply to pupil work related communication, set work on activities during normal teaching hours only: 9am until 3pm.
* During normal teaching hours adequately plan, prepare, research resources for home learning.
* Keep in regular contact with the school Principal during times of remote learning.
* Take regular breaks away from the computer or iPad to engage in other professional duties as much as circumstances allow.
* If unwell themselves, be covered by another staff member for sharing of activities each day if possible
* Adhere to the school’s safeguarding policies.
* The Principal, Learning Support Assistants or Teachers may sometimes contact families by phone call at some stage during long periods of school closure, this will be a professional ‘Check-in’ phone call to see how pupils are doing.
* Give feedback on pupils work via Seesaw.
* **Pupils will:**
* Be assured that wellbeing is at the forefront of our thoughts and they should take regular breaks, get fresh air, exercise and maintain a reasonable balance between online engagement and offline activities.
* Potentially work a day behind what has been shared through the Seesaw app, if it is only possible to access technology in the evenings. Learning can be accessed and completed then.
* Only access the material shared by the school and will ask for parental permission to use technology for anything beyond that.
* Read daily, either independently or with an adult.
* Consider using the school closure time to learn a new skill, follow their own interests to discover more about the world around us or be creative.
* Adhere to the school’s relevant safeguarding policies which can accessed on the school website or on request from the school office.

**Parents/Guardians will:**

* Support their child’s learning to the best of their ability.
* Encourage their child to access and engage with the Seesaw posts from their teacher.
* Not screenshot or copy any information, messages or posts to share on social media or any other platform outside of the Seesaw app
* Adhere to our school Social Media Policy
* Know they can continue to contact their class teacher through the Seesaw app during school hours, during remote learning only.
* All other communication should be via the school office at any other time.
* Check their child’s completed work each day and encourage the progress that is being made.
* Be mindful of mental well-being of both themselves and their child and encourage their child to take regular breaks, play games, get fresh air and relax.
* Respond to any ‘Check-in’ phone call from your child’s Teacher, Principal or Learning Support Assistant in a supportive and constructive manner.

This policy will be updated as and when applicable.