



Remote Learning Policy – COVID 19

Implementation Date: July 2020, updated October 2020

Review Date: Ongoing according to Government Guidance

Introduction

In March 2020 schools across the UK closed due to the COVID 19 pandemic. They remained open only for those children of identified key workers and those classified as vulnerable. As a result of this shift The Whitchurch CE Federation put a remote learning plan in place. This document outlines this plan for any emergency lockdown situations that may occur in the future. The main aim of this plan is to ensure that all children in the federation community have access to appropriate and effective learning and resources, that all parents feel supported in any home learning tasks and that staff are able to fulfil their responsibilities regarding the provision of learning and support for all families.

Remote Learning

"While our aim is to have all pupils back at school in the autumn, every school will also need to plan for the possibility of a local lockdown and how they will ensure continuity of education." **DfE, 2020**

In a national or local lockdown situation, the majority of children will remain at home and work will be made available to them. For most children this will take the form of online learning. The Whitchurch CE Federation uses Purple Mash as a remote learning platform. All children have a personal login and are familiar with the site. This is where all work will be available to complete, download or where external links to learning will be provided.

It is the expectation that each class teacher will upload a weekly learning grid to their class Purple Mash page. The aim of the grid is to provide a range of learning activities, linked to our curriculum and its drivers, that enable children to complete work independently as well as activities that require adult guidance. A good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject should be provided.

Weekly learning will reflect a curriculum sequence that allows access to high-quality online and offline resources and teaching videos.

The curriculum for our nursery children will focus on the prime areas of learning. Teachers will provide weekly tasks through Mini Mash alongside short videos modelling rhymes, phonics and play based activities for parents, together with a daily story, either pre-recorded or through links to other web-based videos.

Reception teachers will focus on daily phonics, early maths and vocabulary activities which will be uploaded to Purple Mash. Learning across KS1 and KS2 will be comprised of daily lessons in writing, reading or phonics, maths and GPS and weekly lessons in PE, RE, PSHE and topic activities for the children to complete. Lessons will be planned and the flipcharts /power points /learning links will be shared with the parents and children. In addition, for reception through to year 6, at least two class based / whole school worships will be provided each week to ensure children can continue to explore the distinctive Christian beliefs and narrative that underpins our Christian character and our federation aims as a whole. Class teachers will also offer access to a daily story, either pre-recorded or through links to other web-based videos.

All class teachers must ensure that frequent, clear explanations of new content is provided, delivered by a teacher in the academy or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos. For example, the addition of audio descriptions to flipcharts / power points or pre-recorded exposition, links to other platforms (e.g. Mathletics, Readiwriter, Times Tables Rockstars) or web-based lesson videos (e.g. Oak National Academy).

Teachers must ensure that feedback is provided to children in order to gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum, using questions and other suitable tasks such as quizzes. The federation expects that each child will receive specific feedback at least once per week for reading, writing and maths. All other work will be acknowledged.

Children and parents are able to upload the work they have completed for the class teachers and other children in their class to see. Interaction between the teacher and peers is encouraged and children can request more support or ask questions to the teacher using this platform.

There is also a direct 'Home Learning' email option for those who do not wish to submit work or ask question publicly. It is the expectation that this is checked by the class teacher daily and responses given in a timely manner.

For those children who do not have access to a computer in the home, learning packs will be created. These will consist of a range of activities for the child to complete along with support for the parents/carers to guide them through the learning. These will be available for collection with strict social distancing in place. For any parents and children who wish, these can then be returned to the academies on a weekly basis and will be seen by the class teacher for feedback via email.

Learning for those children in school during lockdown

Children of key workers or any vulnerable children in the academies will also use the learning grids to ensure that teaching is consistent across classes and year groups. Devices will be available for children to access Purple Mash and complete the tasks set under the direction of the teaching staff within the classroom at the time. They will support and guide the learning in order for the children to complete the activities set.

There will also be further activities for these children whilst in school in order to enhance their school day and support their mental health and wellbeing.

Staffing

Given the low number of children within the academies, all eligible staff will be placed on a rota system. This rota involves all staff members working for at least 1 day per week within the key worker/vulnerable bubbles. There will always be a minimum of 2 members of staff within a bubble, with at least one qualified teacher where possible. The rota will ensure that at least one member of staff on site is Paediatric First Aid trained and that there is at least one member of the senior leadership team on site at all times. Where possible, this will include a member of the safeguarding team

however, where this is not possible, members will be available for contact throughout the school day.

Weekly staff meetings will take place remotely using Teams or Zoom and regular emails will be sent to all staff with updates.

School-parent communication

The academy admin email accounts will be monitored throughout the day and they remain the key communication tool for parents and teachers. The home learning email account provides a direct communication tool and parents can also use this to contact teachers.

The Infant/ Junior and Federation Twitter accounts and the Federation website will also be key lines of communication for parents. Staff are encouraged to post on Twitter with remote learning updates and also to celebrate any work/activities the children have completed at home. The Federation website is used for information, policies, updates and important messages for parents. Both of these sites are kept up to date; parents are encouraged to use and refer to them regularly.

Class teachers will ensure that they contact all children throughout the lockdown period (phone calls), prioritising those that have not interacted with the teacher via Purple Mash, email or the academy offices.

In the case that a child or family member cannot be contacted, a member of the safeguarding or education access team will attempt to communicate directly with the family, carrying out a home visit if necessary. We will attempt to visit twice and if we are still unable to contact the family we will seek advice from the COMPASS Team and refer to FPOC.

The Heads of School will send all parents weekly emails to update them and share any support documents.

No parent will be allowed on site unless they are dropping off/collecting their child or without prior arrangement with a member of the SLT team.

Safeguarding and SEN

Those children with social workers are expected to attend the academies during a lockdown situation. This will support the child's wellbeing as well as ensuring that they are receiving the care they need. The academies will communicate with the child's social worker to ascertain whether the child would be better placed in school or can remain at home. We will continue to communicate with the child's social worker throughout any lockdown to ensure that there is a clear picture of the family situation.

The safeguarding team will continue to work closely with those children deemed vulnerable through phone calls. Staff will also continue to work closely with social care, referring any concerns on where necessary and taking advice regarding safeguarding issues. Any meetings will continue remotely where possible.

All children with an EHCP are entitled to a place in the academies should a lockdown situation occur. The federation SENDCO, Local Authority and parents will jointly decide whether the child's needs can be effectively met at home. Any children with an EHCP will have a risk assessment and reasonable endeavours form completed which is shared and agreed with the parents/carers. Communication with health and support teams will continue.

For any vulnerable children and those with SEN who do not attend school, weekly welfare calls will take place and a member of the safeguarding/SEN team will ensure that the child is spoken to. As above, for any family that cannot be contacted, a home visit will take place.

The federation safeguarding teams will have remote weekly meetings to discuss any cases and identify key actions going forward to support our children and families. All correspondence will be logged on CPOMs.

Catering

Parents of children attending school during lockdown will be encouraged to provide their own lunches in a disposable bag. For those children who are entitled to a Universal Free School Meal or who are eligible for a benefits related free school meal; these will be provided by the kitchen staff in the form of a sandwich bag.

Children at home who are eligible for a Free School Meal (not UifSM) will receive weekly grocery packs in order for them to provide lunches for their children at home. (NB this offer extends to eligible children who are required to self-isolate.)

Individual class/bubble isolation

In the event of an individual case of COVID 19 with a positive test result, all adults and children identified as contacts of the positive case will need to remain at home for the isolation period. Contacts will be identified with the support of the DfE coronavirus helpline and Public Health England.

Curriculum Provision Plan

In the case of a class/bubble shutdown the class teacher will continue to be responsible for the learning of all the children. *NB in the event of their incapacity due to illness, responsibility will fall to the other year group teachers, assistant principal(s) or suitably qualified member of support staff from the academy.*

As is the case in a national or local lockdown, it is the expectation that the class teacher will upload a weekly learning grid to their class Purple Mash page. The aim of the grid is to provide a range of learning activities, linked to our curriculum and its drivers, that enable children to complete work independently as well as activities that require adult guidance. A good level of clarity about what is intended to be taught and practised in each subject should be provided.

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There is also a direct 'Home Learning' email option for those who do not wish to submit work or ask question publicly. It is the expectation that this is checked by the class teacher daily and responses given in a timely manner.

For those children without access to an electronic device or internet, learning packs will be made available and can either be collected from the academy or where this is not possible, delivered by school staff. For any parents and children who wish, these can then be returned to the academies on a weekly basis and will be seen by the class teacher for feedback via email.

Where possible, any vulnerable children will be provided with a laptop for the isolation period in order for them to access their learning.

For SEN/EHCP children, individual learning needs will be taken into account and provision adapted accordingly. This will include updated risk assessments and reasonable endeavours, paper copies of resources and email support as required. Virtual support by SEN support staff as appropriate, led by the SENDCo.

School-parent communication

As with total lockdown the class teacher will monitor Purple Mash, emails and Twitter and respond to queries and uploaded work accordingly. At this point weekly welfare phone calls will take place by the class teacher or a member of the safeguarding team.

Each academy office will be a key point of contact for the families and important information will be uploaded to the federation website for reference.

Staff

Any members of staff who are required to isolate as part of their class/bubble will be expected to work from home on tasks deemed appropriate by a member of the senior leadership team. They will need to attend any school meetings virtually and respond to calls and emails during this time.

***This plan is to be used in conjunction with the St Bart's Multi Academy Home Learning/Covid 19 Closure Policy.**