

# Beacon Hill Academy

## Remote Learning Policy



28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. We recognise the importance of maintaining high expectations in all areas of school life and ensuring that all pupils have access to the learning resources and support they need to succeed, especially when they are unable to attend school in person.
- 1.2. Our Remote Learning Policy lays out the responsibilities of each of the members of our school community in relation to the provision of remote learning capability to our pupils and details the practical and operational matters associated with this provision.
- 1.3. Its aims are to:
  - Set out a framework for the effective operation of Remote Learning within our school.
  - Set out our expectations for all members of the school community with regards to remote learning.
  - Ensure robust safeguarding measures continue to be in effect during the period of remote learning.
  - Ensure staff, parent, and pupil data remains secure and used in line with Data Protection regulations.
- 1.4. Our Remote Learning Policy will necessarily change in line with changing events, technologies and methodologies and as such will be regularly revised. Any changes will be communicated via our website and using our regular communication channels.

### 2. Scope & Responsibilities

- 2.1. This Policy applies to all staff (including temporary staff, consultants, governors, volunteers, and contractors, and anyone else working on our behalf), pupils, parents and carers.
- 2.2. All staff are responsible for reading and understanding this policy before carrying out tasks relating to remote learning, and for following this policy, including reporting any suspected breaches of it to the Network Manager.

2.3. All leaders are responsible for ensuring their team read and understand this policy before carrying out related tasks, and that they follow this policy, including reporting any suspected breaches of it.

2.4. Our Governing Body, Principal, Senior Leadership Team, Network Manager and Data Protection Officer (DPO) are responsible for dealing with breaches of this policy, including suspected breaches, identified risks, and monitoring compliance with this policy.

### 3. The legal framework

3.1. Relevant legislation, statutory instruments, statutory guidance and Department for Education guidelines are detailed below:

- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2004
- The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2020) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2019) 'School attendance'
- DfE (2017) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'
- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety: responsibilities and duties for schools'
- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety for school children'
- DfE (2016) 'Children missing education'

3.2. The latest Government guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-schools-coronavirus-covid-19>

3.3. This Policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Adult code of conduct
- Assessment and accreditation Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Behaviour support Policy
- Bring Your Own Device Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Data Protection Policy and associated Privacy Notices
- E safety policy

- Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Information Security Policy
- Password Policy
- Pupil Home School Agreement
- Retention Schedule (Records Management Policy)
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Use of Email Policy
- Use of ICT Policy
- Use of Mobile Phone Policy
- Use of Social Media Policy
- Working from Home policy

3.4. The content of this section is not exhaustive, and these provisions are subject to continuous development.

## 4. Learning

4.1. We believe it is in the best interest of children engaging in remote learning to provide structured and sequenced personalised remote learning, replicating their classroom experience as closely as possible, however we recognise that switching to remote learning will affect pupils and their families in a number of ways.

4.2. The learning methods selected will be based on:

- Being realistic and focusing on what is most important, recognising that remote learning can be more difficult for many pupils and providing appropriate support.
- Allowing flexibility in the completion of activities, understanding that families may have more than one child sharing home resources and that workspaces may be shared with multiple family members, including by designing activities that are accessible for all pupils, including those working offline.
- Ensuring best accessibility to all by tailoring the remote curriculum to each individual pupil

4.3. We will use a range of delivery methods including:

- Directed online learning - Sign-posting to online learning resources
- Hard copy activities - Provision of resources to complete offline
- Remote live lessons - Lesson delivered to camera; pupils log in to a platform to participate.
- Remote pre-recorded lessons - Staff delivery of lessons to camera (with no pupil presence) and made available to pupils online to access in their own time

- Blended learning - Staff delivery of lessons with both in school and remote pupil attendance

## **5. Resources**

5.1. The school will provide a combination of teaching and learning resources to support remote learning including, but not necessarily limited to:

- Personalised activity packs
- Physical equipment
- Sensory resources from Aladdin's Cave
- Accessible technology and switches
- Educational websites
- Remote learning platforms and tools
- Pre-recorded video or audio lessons

## **6. Equipment**

6.1. Pupils will need to use their own or family-owned equipment to access remote learning resources, unless the school agrees to provide or loan equipment, e.g., iPad's. This will be managed via Aladdin's Cave, our lending library

6.2. For pupils who cannot access digital devices at home, we will, where possible, apply for support from the government to provide devices.

6.3. If a pupil is provided with school-owned equipment, the pupil and their parent will need to borrow this via the Aladdin's Cave lending library

## **7. Remote Learning Platforms & Online Learning Tools**

7.1. The Use of Remote Learning Platforms and Online Learning Tools is key to our ability to offer flexibility in our learning provision and offers the chance for greater efficiency, improved connectivity and collaboration between staff, governors and pupils, and flexible access to education for vulnerable and hard to reach children, supporting safeguarding and wellbeing agendas.

7.2. These tools will further support pupils who may currently be learning remotely, particularly when recovering at home, to feel more integrated into the school community.

7.3. We will ensure that the platforms and tools we use are secure, maintain privacy and have enterprise level security.

## **8. Safeguarding**

8.1. Safeguarding and child protection remains as important in this environment as anywhere else, and staff members will apply the school's safeguarding guidance to remote learning, just as they would to classroom working - staff who become aware of any child protection concerns will continue to follow established safeguarding procedures.

8.2. We will adhere to all additional guidance on delivering learning for those children access provision at home

8.3. When working remotely, we will ensure that the current Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy is adhered to at all times.

## **9. Data Protection**

9.1. Data Protection remains as important in this environment as anywhere else, and staff members will apply the school's Data Protection Policies to remote learning, just as they would to classroom working - staff who become aware of any data breaches will continue to follow established data protection procedures.

9.2. This includes maintaining the same high standards of data protection, when sharing events and lessons remotely, as we would sharing any other sensitive, personal or confidential data.

9.3. Recording individuals will generate personal data including pupil images, names, contributions, login and contact details and will be protected, processed and retained in the same way as all personal data, in line with the schools Data Protection Policies and Privacy notices and in accordance with our other policies listed above

9.4. The Data Protection Act, GDPR and our policies require us to assess the lawful basis for Data Sharing and the Data Protection suitability of providers of services/platforms, and this information will be published in our Privacy Notices.

9.5. We will carry out DPIAs of third party processors supplying remote and online learning and/or communications platforms and for any other processing deemed to require such.

9.6. We will follow our Use of ICT and Email policy when communicating with parents and pupils.

9.7. We will follow the procedures in our Data Protection Policy for recording, reporting and responding to data breaches, suspected data breaches and cyber security incidents.

## **10. Wellbeing**

10.1. In addition to safeguarding, pupil wellbeing is a significant consideration in our planning for remote learning.

10.2. We will ensure our remote learning curriculum factors in support for pupils' mental and physical wellbeing and considers differentiation in our pupils.

10.3. This includes scheduling regular breaks in teaching, recommending fresh air and exercise-based activities and by ensuring a reasonable balance between online and offline activities.

## **11. School & home communications**

11.1. Maintaining a sense of community with parents, carers and pupils is very important to us and we will provide regular communication to parents about any general measures that need to be put in place if their child is learning remotely.

11.2. During the period of remote learning, we will maintain regular contact with parents to:

- Ensure parents are aware of what their children are being asked to do and when and provide support with how to access this
- Reinforce the importance of children staying safe online.
- Provide further information as the necessity arises.

## 12. School Responsibilities

12.1. Each member of our school community plays a part in the safe and effective delivery of remote learning. These responsibilities are outlined below.

12.2. Our governing body is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the school has robust risk management procedures in place.
- Ensuring that the school has a business continuity plan in place, where required.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the school's remote learning arrangements including to ensure that the curriculum remains fully accessible and inclusive to all.

12.3. Our Principal is responsible for:

- Ensuring the schools remote learning approach is effectively communicated to the whole school community and providing regular and timely updates as dictated by any circumstances relating to the invocation of a period of remote learning.
- Co-ordinating and monitoring the effectiveness of remote learning delivery across the school, including to ensure that the curriculum remains fully accessible and inclusive to all.
- Monitoring the security of remote learning systems, including data protection and safeguarding considerations.
- Overseeing that the staff and pupils have the resources and appropriate training necessary to ensure effective remote learning in accordance with this policy.
- Ensuring the relevant policies are available to the school community at all times.
- Ensuring that there are arrangements in place for identifying, evaluating, and managing the risks associated with remote learning, including putting procedures and safe systems of learning into practice, which are designed to eliminate or reduce the risks associated with remote learning.
- Ensuring that there are arrangements in place for monitoring incidents associated with remote learning.
- Managing the effectiveness of safeguarding measures through a robust system of reporting, investigating, and recording incidents.
- Ensuring that pupils identified as being at risk are provided with necessary information and instruction, as required.
- Managing the effectiveness of health and safety measures through a robust system of reporting, investigating, and recording incidents including that the relevant risk assessments are carried out within the agreed timeframes.
- Managing the effectiveness of data protection measures through a robust system of reporting, investigating, and recording incidents including the relevant Data Protection Impact Assessments are carried out prior to sharing pupil (or other high risk) information.

- Regular reviews of the effectiveness of this policy.

12.4. The Governors and Principal are responsible for liaising with the Data Protection Officer to ensure:

- all staff are aware of the data protection principles outlined in the GDPR.
- all Data Protection Policies and Privacy Notices are updated to reflect remote learning platforms.
- that all learning platforms, apps, games, communication platforms, computer programs used for remote learning are compliant with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 and where necessary, Data Protection Impact Assessments have been carried out.
- all staff understand and follow the procedures for data breaches

12.5. The Principal as DSL is responsible for:

- Attending and arranging, where necessary, any safeguarding meetings that occur during the remote learning period.
- Liaising with the Network Manager to ensure that all technology used for remote learning is suitable for its purpose and will protect pupils online.
- Identifying vulnerable pupils who may be at risk if they are learning remotely.
- Ensuring that child protection plans are enforced while the pupil is learning remotely, and liaising other organisations to make alternate arrangements for pupils who are at a high risk, where required.
- Identifying the level of support or intervention required while pupils learn remotely and ensuring appropriate measures are in place.
- Liaising with relevant individuals to ensure vulnerable pupils receive the support required during the period of remote working, ensuring all safeguarding incidents are adequately recorded and reported.

12.6. IT Staff are responsible for:

- Reviewing the security of remote learning systems and flagging any security breaches to the Network Manager who will inform the Data Protection Officer.
- Overseeing that any ICT equipment used for remote learning is resilient and can efficiently recover lost data.
- Ensuring that all school-owned devices used for remote learning have suitable anti-virus software installed, have a secure connection, can recover lost work, and allow for audio and visual material to be recorded, where required.
- Ensuring that any programs or networks used for remote learning can effectively support a large number of users at one time, where required, e.g., undertaking 'stress' testing.

- Ensure that the equipment and technology used for learning remotely is accessible to all pupils and staff.
- Create learning plans in line with this policy.
- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.
- Taking appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure in line with the ICT Use Policy including by setting privacy settings on devices used to deliver or engage in remote learning to an appropriate level to protect themselves and the pupils/parents involved
- Reporting any safeguarding incidents to the DSL and asking for guidance as appropriate.
- Reporting any health and safety incidents to the health and safety officer and asking for guidance as appropriate.
- Reporting any Data Protection incidents to the Network Manager who will ask DPO for guidance as appropriate.
- Taking part in any training conducted to meet the requirements of this policy, including training on how to use the necessary electronic equipment and software.
- Reporting any dangers or potential dangers they identify, as well as any concerns they may have about remote learning, to the Principal.
- Reporting any defects on school-owned equipment used for remote learning to the Network manager
- Adhering to the requirements of the policies listed in section 3 including as they relate to remote learning.