



# Tithe Farm Primary

## Pupil Remote Learning Policy during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Last updated: December 2021

## Remote Learning During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Within the ever-changing circumstances we are currently living through, we must be prepared for local restrictions. If local restrictions apply, the school will implement provision for remote learning to ensure pupils never miss out on education. We will ensure that our curriculum is inclusive and accessible to all. This policy annex outlines additional measures that will be implemented for delivering remote learning during the pandemic.

### 1. Legal framework

1.1 This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation, statutory and good practice guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2020) 'Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19)'
- DfE (2020) 'Adapting teaching practice for remote education'
- DfE (2020) 'Guidance for full opening: schools'
- DfE (2020) 'Get help with technology during coronavirus (COVID-19)'
- DfE (2020) 'Get laptops and tablets for children who cannot attend school due to coronavirus (COVID-19)'
- DfE (2020) 'How schools can plan for tier 2 local restrictions'
- DfE (2020) 'Laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers provided during coronavirus (COVID-19)'
- Department of Health & Social Care (2020) 'COVID-19 contain framework: a guide for local decision makers'
- DfE (2020) 'Remote education good practice'
- DfE (2020) The Coronavirus Act 2020 Provision of Remote Education (England) Temporary Continuity Direction
- DfE (2021) 'Restricting the attendance during the national lockdown: schools.'

1.2 The headteacher, in collaboration with the governing board, will ensure the school follows the legal obligations regarding remote education, as outlined in The Coronavirus Act 2020 Provision of Remote Education (England) Temporary Continuity Direction and more recently Restricting the attendance during the national lockdown: schools. This includes:

- Providing the suggested hours a day of remote education to all pupils of compulsory school age.
- Providing remote education to pupils below compulsory school age who would usually be taught in a class with pupils of compulsory school age, e.g. Reception children.
- Providing remote education where it would be unlawful, or contrary to guidance issued from public authorities, for a pupil to travel to or attend the school.
- Having regard to government guidance issued regarding the delivery of remote education, e.g. the DfE's 'Guidance for full opening: schools'.

## **2. Contingency planning**

- 2.1 The school will work closely with the LA to ensure the premises is COVID-secure, and will complete all necessary risk assessments – results of the opening risk assessment will be published on the school’s website.
- 2.2 The school will work closely with the local health protection team when local restrictions apply and implement the provisions set.
- 2.3 The school will communicate its contingency plans for local restrictions with parents, including which pupils it will remain open to and which pupils will receive remote education.
- 2.4 The school will ensure that remote learning training is regularly refreshed for teachers, and that appropriate trouble-shooting support is available when needed, so the transition from in-person to remote teaching can be as seamless as possible if required.
- 2.5 If local restrictions are not applied, but a single class or ‘bubble’ needs to self-isolate, the school will immediately implement remote learning for that group as required.
- 2.6 The level of remote learning provision required will be based on the government’s four tiers of local restrictions or national lockdown guidance as stated in DfE (2021) Restricting the attendance during the national lockdown: schools. Where there are no local restrictions in place, these tiers will not apply. The school will remain fully open to all those not required to self-isolate.

### **Tier 1 local restrictions**

- 2.7 The school will remain open if tier 1 restrictions are in place, and remote learning will not be provided at this time.

### **Tier 2 local restrictions**

- 2.8 The school will remain open if tier 2 restrictions are in place, and remote learning will not be provided at this time.

### **Tier 3 local restrictions**

- 2.9 The school will remain open if tier 3 restrictions are in place, and remote learning will not be provided at this time.

### **Tier 4 local restrictions**

- 2.10 The school will limit on-site attendance to just vulnerable pupils. All other pupils will receive remote education in line with section 3 of this appendix.

### **National Lockdown**

The school will remain open for vulnerable pupils and pupils with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker, if required. In accordance to guidelines,

parents and carers who are critical workers will be encouraged to keep their children at home if they can. Remote learning will be provided/available to all pupils.

### **3. Teaching and learning**

- 3.1 All pupils will have access to high-quality education when learning remotely.
- 3.2 The school will prioritise factors that have been found to increase the effectiveness of remote education. These include, but are not limited to:
  - Ensuring pupils receive clear explanations.
  - Supporting growth in confidence with new material through scaffolded practice.
  - Application of new knowledge or skills.
  - Live and recorded lessons by a teacher (class teacher or other).
  - Enabling pupils to receive feedback on how to progress.
- 3.3 The school will use a range of teaching methods to cater for all different learning styles.
- 3.4 The school will provide a minimum of 3 hours a day on average across the cohort, in Key Stage 1 (with less for younger pupils) and 4 hours a day for Key Stage 2 pupils.
- 3.5 Teachers will ensure that a portion of their lessons are designed to promote interactivity amongst pupils and between pupils and staff, e.g. live lessons or the use of the 'chat' function on meeting software where appropriate, to lessen feelings of isolation and to promote pupil progress and motivation.
- 3.6 Teachers will ensure lessons are inclusive for all pupils and can be adapted to account for the needs of disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND.
- 3.7 When teaching pupils who are working remotely, teachers will:
  - Set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day.
  - Deliver a planned, coherent and well-sequenced curriculum which allows skills to be built incrementally.
  - Provide frequent, clear explanations of new content through high-quality curriculum resources, including through educational videos.
  - Assess progress by using questions and other suitable tasks and be clear on how regularly work will be checked.
  - Adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding.
  - Plan a programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, ideally including daily contact with teachers.
  - Upload any materials/activities the day before the lesson is delivered so that parents/carers are able to familiarise themselves with the content.

- 3.8 All provisions for remote learning will be subject to the class group's age, ability and/or any SEND.
- 3.9 In exceptional circumstances, the school may reduce its curriculum offering to enable pupils to cope with the workload – the headteacher will assess this need, keeping pupils' best interests in mind, and will not take the decision lightly.
- 3.10 Teachers will continue to make use of formative assessments throughout the academic year, e.g. quizzes.
- 3.11 The school recognises that certain subjects are more difficult to teach remotely, e.g. music, sciences and physical education. Teachers will provide effective substitutes for in-person teaching such as video demonstrations.
- 3.12 Pupils will be encouraged to take regular physical exercise to maintain fitness, and time will be allocated within the school week for pupils to focus on this.
- 3.13 The school will remain cognisant of families who do not have access to the resources required for remote education, and will ensure that an up-to-date record of which pupils do not have appropriate devices or internet access is maintained.
- 3.14 The school will utilise the support available through the DfE's 'Get help with technology during coronavirus (COVID-19)' scheme.
- 3.15 Under the scheme, the school can order laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers to support the following groups of pupils if they do not have access to a digital device or the internet through other means:
- Pupils in Years 3 to 11
  - Clinically extremely vulnerable pupils across all year groups who are shielding or self-isolating in line with government advice
  - Pupils in all year groups who are unable to access remote education whilst attending school on a hospital site
- 3.16 Before distributing devices, the school will ensure:
- The devices are set up to access remote education.
  - Appropriate safeguarding controls and support are in place to help pupils use the devices safely.
- 3.17 Once devices are ready for collection, the school will either arrange for them to be collected by pupils or their parents from school, or delivered to pupils' homes, ensuring infection control measures are adhered to as part of this process.
- 3.18 The school will approach remote learning in a flexible manner where necessary, e.g. ensuring that lessons, live or otherwise, are recorded to accommodate contexts where pupils have to share a single device within the home.

3.19 Where live lessons are recorded, the school will ensure all recording procedures have due regard for the relevant data protection legislation, including the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation.

3.20 The school will maintain good communication with parents to ensure that parents are aided in supporting their child's remote education.

#### **4. Returning to school**

4.1 The headteacher will work with the LA to ensure pupils who have been learning remotely only return to school when it is safe for them to do so.

4.2 After a period of self-isolation, or the lessening of local restriction rules or national lockdown, the headteacher will inform parents when their child will return to school.

4.3 The headteacher will listen to all concerns that parents may have about their child returning to school and will advise them of the measures in place to ensure the safety of their child.

#### **5. Monitoring and review**

5.1 This policy annex will be reviewed in line with any updates to government guidance.

5.2 All changes to the policy will be communicated to relevant members of the school community.