



Excellence for All

STUDENT REMOTE LEARNING POLICY

From 22 October 2020 schools have a legal duty to provide remote education to all students who require it. More details can be found in Appendix A.

Rationale

At Manor Green School, we understand the need to continually deliver high quality education, including during periods of remote learning – whether for an individual student or many. We recognise the importance of maintaining high expectations in all areas of school life and ensuring that all students have access to the learning resources and support they need to succeed.

Through the implementation of this policy, we aim to address the key concerns associated with remote learning, such as online safety, access to educational resources, data protection, and safeguarding.

This policy aims to:

- Minimise the disruption to students' education and the delivery of the curriculum.
- Guarantee provision is in place so that all students have access to high quality learning resources.
- Protect students from the risks associated with using devices connected to the internet.
- Secure staff, parent, and student data so it is not lost or misused.
- Ensure robust safeguarding measures continue to be in effect during the period of remote learning.
- Make sure all students have the provision they need to complete their work to the best of their ability, and to remain happy, healthy, and supported during periods of remote learning.

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies and documents:

- Attendance Policy
- Behaviour Support Policy
- Communications Policy
- Electronic Communications (Acceptable Use) Policy
- Equality Objectives
- Feedback and Assessment Policy
- GDPR Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Nurture Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- SEN Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct (Staff Handbook)
- Curriculum Policy

Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Board is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the school has robust risk management procedures in place.
- Make sure that the school has a business continuity plan in place, where required.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the school's remote learning arrangements.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff, parents and students are aware of the relevant policies.
- Making arrangements for identifying, evaluating, and managing the risks associated with remote learning.
- Making arrangements for monitoring incidents associated with remote learning.
- Overseeing that the school has the resources necessary to action the procedures in this policy.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of this policy on an annual basis and communicating any changes to staff, parents, and students.
- Arranging any additional training staff may require to support students during the period of remote learning.

The Leadership Team will be responsible for:

- Confirming that the relevant health and safety risk assessments are carried out within the agreed timeframes, in collaboration with the headteacher.
- Putting procedures and safe systems of learning into practice, which are designed to eliminate or reduce the risks associated with remote learning.
- Identifying students at risk and providing them 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.
- Evaluating the need for and arranging the procurement of any equipment or technology required for staff to teach remotely and for students to learn from home.
- Making sure value for money is achieved when arranging the procurement of equipment or technology.
- Ensuring that the school has adequate insurance to cover all remote working arrangements.
- Conducting reviews on a weekly basis of the remote learning arrangements to ensure students' education is progressing as well as is possible in the individual's circumstances.

The ICT Manager is responsible for:

- Overseeing that all school-owned electronic devices used for remote learning have adequate anti-virus software and malware protection.
- Providing information to all staff, parents, and students so they are aware of the data protection principles outlined in the GDPR.
- Ensuring that all computer programs used for remote learning are compliant with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- Overseeing that any ICT equipment used for remote learning is resilient and that lost data can be recovered.
- Making sure that all school-owned devices used for remote learning have suitable anti-virus software installed, have a secure connection, provide for the recovery of 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.
- Working with the Heads of Department to ensure that the equipment and technology used for learning remotely is accessible to all students and staff.

The DSLs are responsible for:

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

Staff members are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.
- Reporting any health and safety incidents to the Leadership Team and asking for guidance as appropriate.
- Reporting any safeguarding incidents to the DSL and asking 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 headteacher.
- Reporting any defects on school-owned equipment used for remote learning to the IT Manager.
- Adhering to the Staff Code of Conduct at all times.

Parents are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.
- Endeavouring to have their child available to learn remotely at the times set out in this policy
- Endeavouring to have the schoolwork completed to the best standard possible within the limits of their family circumstances.
- Ensuring that the learning environment is suitable to promote online safeguarding during live lessons with video
- Reporting any technical issues to the school as soon as possible.
- Making sure that their child has access to remote learning material during the times set out in this policy.
- Reporting any absence in line with the terms set out in this policy.
- Ensuring their child uses the equipment and technology used for remote learning as intended.
- Notifying the teacher if their child is unwell or has been unable to complete the schoolwork they have been set.

Students are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.
- Being available to learn remotely at the times set out in this policy, and that their schoolwork is completed on time and to the best of their ability.
- Reporting any technical issues to their teacher as soon as possible.
- Gaining access to remote learning material and notifying a responsible adult if they do not have access.
- Notifying a responsible adult if they are feeling unwell or are unable to complete the schoolwork they have been set.
- Making sure they use any equipment and technology for remote learning as intended.
- Adhering to the Behaviour Support Policy at all times.

Resources

Learning materials

- The school will accept a range of different teaching methods during remote learning to help explain concepts and address misconceptions easily. For the purpose of providing remote learning, the school may make use of:
 - Work booklets
 - Email
 - Activity Packs
 - Current online learning portals
 - Educational websites
 - Reading tasks
 - Live lessons
 - Pre-recorded video or audio lessons
 - Suggested tasks in the home to promote independence
- Teachers will review the DfE's list of [online education resources](#) and utilise these tools as necessary, in addition to existing resources.
- Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure that all students have access to the resources needed for effective remote learning.
- Teachers will ensure the programmes chosen for online learning have a range of features.
- The school recognises that interactive lessons are most effective in aiding students' motivation and academic progression and, to this effect, teachers will ensure they regularly recreate aspects of in-person interactivity, e.g. live classes with questioning, eliciting and reflective discussion, to the best of their ability.
- Lesson plans will be adapted to ensure that the curriculum remains fully accessible and inclusive via remote learning.
- The school will review the resources students have access to and adapt learning to account for all students needs by using a range of different formats, e.g. providing activity packs.
- Work packs will be made available for students who do not have access to a printer – these packs can be collected from school.

- i) Teaching staff will liaise with the Head of Department and other relevant members of staff to ensure all students remain fully supported for the duration of the remote learning period.
- j) Any issues with remote learning resources will be reported as soon as possible to the relevant member of staff.
- k) Students will be required to use their own or family-owned equipment to access remote learning resources, unless the school agrees to provide or loan equipment, e.g. laptops.
- l) For students who cannot access digital devices at home, the school will, where possible, apply for technology support through their LA or Government suggested schemes.
- m) Students and parents will be required to maintain the upkeep of any equipment they use to access remote learning resources.
- n) Teaching staff will oversee academic progression for the duration of the remote learning period and will mark and provide feedback on work in line with this policy.
- o) The arrangements for any 'live' classes, e.g. webinars, will be communicated via email and remote learning timetables will be posted on the school website.
- p) The ICT technicians are not responsible for providing technical support for equipment that is not owned by the school.

Food provision

The school will signpost parents via email towards additional support for ensuring their children continue to receive the food they need, e.g. food banks.

Where applicable, the school may provide vouchers to families who receive FSM:

Costs and expenses

The school will not contribute to any household expenses incurred while students learn remotely, e.g. heating, lighting, or council tax.

The school will not reimburse any costs for travel between students' homes and the school premises.

The school will not reimburse any costs for childcare.

If a student is provided with school-owned equipment, the student and their parent will sign and adhere to the Technology Acceptable Use Agreement prior to commencing remote learning.

Online Safety

This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Online Safety Policy.

Where possible, all interactions will be textual and public.

All staff using video communication must:

- Communicate in groups.

- Wear suitable clothing – this includes others in their household.
- Be situated in a suitable ‘public’ living area within the home with an appropriate background, the background blurring facility can be used if required
- Use appropriate language – this includes others in their household.
- Maintain the standard of behaviour expected in school.
- Use the necessary equipment and computer programs as intended.
- Not record, store, or distribute video material without permission.
- Ensure they have a stable connection to avoid disruption to lessons.
- Always remain aware that they are visible.

All students using video communication must:

- Communicate in groups.
- Wear suitable clothing – this includes others in their household.
- Be situated in a suitable ‘public’ living area within the home with an appropriate background, the background blurring facility can be used if required – it is the responsibility of the parent to ensure the learning space is appropriate for safeguarding purposes.
- Use appropriate language – this includes others in their household.
- Maintain the standard of behaviour expected in school.
- Use the necessary equipment and computer programs as intended.
- Not record, store, or distribute video material without permission.
- Always remain aware that they are visible.
- Parents should endeavour to ensure they have a stable connection to avoid disruption to lessons.

All staff and students using audio communication must:

- Use appropriate language – this includes others in their household.
- Maintain the standard of behaviour expected in school.
- Use the necessary equipment and computer programs as intended.
- Not record, store, or distribute audio material without permission.
- Ensure they have a stable connection to avoid disruption to lessons.
- Always remain aware that they can be heard.

- a) The school will consider whether one-to-one sessions are appropriate in some circumstances. This will be decided and approved by the LT.
- b) The school will risk assess the technology used for remote learning prior to use and ensure that there are no privacy issues or scope for inappropriate use.
- c) The school will consult with parents during the period of remote learning about what methods of delivering remote teaching are most suitable – alternate arrangements will be made where necessary.
- d) The school will ensure that all school-owned equipment and technology used for remote learning has suitable anti-virus software installed and can establish secure connections.
- e) The school will communicate to parents via email about any precautionary measures that need to be put in place if their child is learning remotely using their own/family-owned equipment and technology, e.g. ensuring that their internet connection is secure.
- f) During the period of remote learning, the school will maintain regular contact with parents to:
 - Reinforce the importance of children staying safe online.

- Track engagement and attendance
 - Ensure parents are aware of what their children are being asked to do, e.g. sites they have been asked to use and staff they will interact with.
 - Encourage them to set age-appropriate parental controls on devices and internet filters to block malicious websites.
 - Direct parents to useful resources to help them keep their children safe online.
- g) The school will not be responsible for providing access to the internet off the school premises and will not be responsible for providing online safety software, e.g. anti-virus software, on devices not owned by the school.

Safeguarding

- a) This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Safeguarding Policy, which has been updated to include safeguarding procedures in relation to remote working.
- b) The DSL and headteacher will identify 'vulnerable' students (students who are deemed to be vulnerable or are at risk of harm) via risk assessment prior to the period of remote learning.
- c) The DSL will arrange for regular contact to be made with vulnerable students, prior to the period of remote learning.
- d) Phone calls made to vulnerable students will be made using school phones where possible.
- e) The DSL will arrange for regular contact with vulnerable students once per week at minimum.
- f) All contact with vulnerable students will be recorded centrally and checked by the Leadership Team
- g) The DSL will keep in contact with vulnerable students' social workers or other care professionals during the period of remote working, as required.
- h) All home visits will:
- Have at least one suitably trained individual present.
 - Be undertaken by no fewer than two members of staff.
 - Be suitably recorded so that the DSL has access to them.
 - Actively involve the student.
- i) The DSL will meet (in person or remotely) with the relevant members of staff daily to discuss new and current safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable students learning remotely.
- j) All members of staff will report any safeguarding concerns to the DSL immediately.
- k) Students and their parents will be encouraged to contact the DSL if they wish to report safeguarding concerns, e.g. regarding harmful or upsetting content or incidents of online bullying. The school will also signpost families to the practical support that is available for reporting these concerns.

Data Protection

- a) This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's GDPR Policy.
- b) Staff members will be responsible for adhering to the GDPR when teaching remotely and will ensure the confidentiality and integrity of their devices at all times.
- c) Sensitive data will only be transferred between devices if it is necessary to do so for the purpose of remote learning and teaching
- d) Any data that is transferred between devices will be suitably encrypted or have other data protection measures in place so that if the data is lost, stolen, or subject to unauthorised access, it remains safe until recovered.
- e) Parents' and students' up-to-date contact details will be collected prior to the period of remote learning.
- f) All contact details will be stored in line with the GDPR Policy and retained in line with the Local Authority's Records Management Policy.
- g) The school will not permit paper copies of contact details to be taken off the school premises (unless staff are delivering resources/making home visits.
- h) Students are not permitted to let their family members or friends use any school-owned equipment which contains personal data.
- i) Any breach of confidentiality will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy
- j) Any intentional breach of confidentiality will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Behaviour Support Policy or the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

Marking and Feedback

- a) All schoolwork completed through remote learning must be:
 - Finished when returned to the relevant member of teaching staff.
 - Returned on or before the deadline set by the relevant member of teaching staff.
 - Completed to the best of the student's ability.
 - The student's own work.
 - Marked in line with the Feedback and Assessment Policy.
 - Returned to the student, once marked, by an agreed date.
- b) The school expects students and staff to maintain a good work ethic during the period of remote learning.
- c) Teaching staff will monitor the academic progress of students with and without access to the online learning resources and discuss additional support or provision with the headteacher as soon as possible.
- d) Teaching staff will monitor the academic progress of students and discuss additional support or provision with the Head of Department as soon as possible.
- e) The school accepts a variety of formative assessment and feedback methods, e.g. through quizzes and other digital tools from teachers, and will support them with implementing these measures for remote learning where possible.

- f) The school will log participation and student engagement with remote education, as well as motivation levels and progress, and this will be reported to parents via formal regular reports or, if there is a concern, individually via telephone.
- g) The school will consider ways to use feedback to secure consistent engagement with remote material, e.g Engagement checks.

Health and Safety

- a) This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Health and Safety Policy.
- b) Teaching staff and the ICT Manager will ensure students are shown how to use the necessary equipment and technology safely and correctly prior to the period of remote learning.
- c) If using electronic devices during remote learning, students will be encouraged to take a five-minute screen break every two hours.
- d) Screen break frequency will be adjusted to five minutes every hour for younger students or students with medical conditions who require more frequent screen breaks.
- e) If any incidents or near-misses occur in a student's home, they or their parents are required to report these to the health and safety officer or other relevant member of staff immediately so that appropriate action can be taken.
- f) Students will be encouraged to sit in an appropriate way when using equipment that is conducive to their participation and minimises physical strain.

School Day and Absence

- a) Remote teaching will take place between 9:30am and 2.30pm from Monday to Friday, with the exception of breaks and lunchtimes, as outlined in b) below.
- b) Breaks and lunchtimes will be highlighted on the student's class timetable
- c) Some students may find a full timetable hard to cope with. Where this is the case, parents should discuss with the class teacher which parts of the timetable to prioritise.
- d) Students who are unwell are not expected to be present for remote working until they are well enough to do so.
- e) Parents will inform their child's teacher no later than 8:30am if their child is unwell.
- f) The school will monitor absence in line with the Attendance Policy.

Communication

- a) The school will ensure adequate channels of communication are arranged in the event of an emergency.
- b) The school will communicate with parents via email and the school website about remote learning arrangements as soon as possible.

- c) The headteacher will communicate with staff as soon as possible via email about any remote learning arrangements.
- d) Members of staff involved in remote teaching will ensure they have a working mobile device that is available to take phone calls during their agreed working hours.
- e) The school understands that students learning remotely have the right to privacy out-of-hours and should be able to separate their school and home lives – communication is only permitted during school hours.
- f) Members of staff will have contact with their line manager at least once per week.
- g) As much as possible, all communication with students and their parents will take place within the school hours outlined in this policy.
- h) Students will have verbal contact with a member of teaching staff at least once per week via a group call.
- i) Parents and students will inform the relevant member of staff as soon as possible if schoolwork cannot be completed.
- j) Issues with remote learning or data protection will be communicated to the students' teacher as soon as possible so they can investigate and resolve the issue.
- k) The students' teacher will keep parents and students informed of any changes to the remote learning arrangements or the schoolwork set.
- l) The Leadership Team will review the effectiveness of communication on a weekly basis and ensure measures are put in place to address gaps or weaknesses in communication.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff and other stakeholders.

The Governing Board approved this policy on: 11th February 2021

Signed: Richard Pelly, Chair of Governors

Signed: Joolz Scarlett, Head Teacher

APPENDIX

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 students 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.

Legal framework

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'
- [New] DfE (2020) 'Remote education good practice'
- [New] DfE (2020) The Coronavirus Act 2020 Provision of Remote Education (England) Temporary Continuity Direction

From 22 October 2020 to end of 2020/2021 academic year, 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. This includes:

- Providing remote education to all students of compulsory school age.
- [EYFS] Providing remote education to students below compulsory school age who would usually be taught in a class with students 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 student 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'.

Contingency planning

- a) 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.
- b) The school will work closely with the local health protection team when local restrictions apply and implement the provisions set within the Coronavirus (COVID-19): Contingency Plan.

- c) The school will communicate its contingency plans for local restrictions with parents, including which students it will remain open to and which students will receive remote education.
- d) 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.
- e) If a single class or 'bubble' needs to self-isolate, the school will immediately implement remote learning for that group as required.

Teaching and learning

- a) The school will ensure staff and students follow the school's Online Safety Policy when working and learning remotely.
- b) All students will have access to high-quality education when learning remotely.
- c) The school will prioritise factors that have been found to increase the effectiveness of remote education. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Ensuring students receive clear explanations.
 - Supporting growth in confidence with new material through scaffolded practice.
 - Application of new knowledge or skills.
 - Enabling students to receive feedback on how to progress.
- d) The school will use a range of teaching methods to cater for all different learning styles, including:
 - Work booklets
 - Email
 - Activity Packs
 - Current online learning portals
 - Educational websites
 - Reading tasks
 - Live lessons
 - Pre-recorded video or audio lessons
 - Suggested tasks in the home to promote independence
- e) Teachers will ensure that a portion of their lessons are designed to promote interactivity amongst students and between students and staff, e.g. live lessons or use of the 'chat' function on meeting software, to lessen feelings of isolation and to promote student progress and motivation.
- f) Teachers will ensure lessons are inclusive for all students and can be adapted to account for the needs of disadvantaged students and students with SEND.
- g) When teaching students who are working remotely, teachers will:
 - Set assignments so that students 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 students' understanding.
 - Plan a programme that is of equivalent length to the core teaching students would receive in school, ideally including daily contact with staff
- h) All provisions for remote learning will be subject to the class group's age and ability.
- i) In exceptional circumstances, the school may reduce its curriculum offering to enable students to cope with the workload – the Leadership Team will assess this need, keeping students' best interests in mind, and will not take the decision lightly.
- j) Teachers will continue to make use of formative assessments throughout the academic year, e.g. quizzes.
- k) 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.
- l) Students will be encouraged to take regular physical exercise to maintain fitness, and time will be allocated within the school week for students to focus on this.
- m) 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 students do not have appropriate devices or internet access is maintained.
- n) The school will utilise the support available through the DfE's 'Get help with technology during coronavirus (COVID-19)' scheme.
- o) Under the scheme, the school can order laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers to support the following groups of students if they do not have access to a digital device or the internet through other means:
- Students in Years 3 to 11
 - Clinically extremely vulnerable students across all year groups who are shielding or self-isolating in line with government advice
 - Students in all year groups who are unable to access remote education whilst attending school on a hospital site
- f) 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 students use the devices safely.
- g) Once devices are ready for collection, the school will either arrange for them to be collected by students or their parents from school, or delivered to students' homes, ensuring infection control measures are adhered to as part of this process.
- h) 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 students have to share a single device within the home.

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

Returning to school

- a) The headteacher will work with the LA to ensure students who have been learning remotely only return to school when it is safe for them to do so.
- b) After a period of self-isolation, or the lessening of restriction rules, the headteacher will inform parents when their child will return to school.
- c) 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.

Monitoring and review

- a) This policy appendix will be reviewed in line with any updates to government guidance.
- b) All changes to the policy will be communicated to relevant members of the school community.