



St John Fisher Catholic High School

Pupil Remote Learning Policy

Last updated: 27 September 2020

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Statement of intent

At **St John Fisher Catholic High School**, we understand the need to continually deliver high quality education, including during periods of remote learning – whether for an individual pupil or many. 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.

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 pupils' education and the delivery of the curriculum.
- Ensure provision is in place so that all pupils have access to high quality learning resources.
- Protect pupils from the risks associated with using devices connected to the internet.
- Ensure staff, parent, and pupil data remains secure and is not lost or misused.
- Ensure robust safeguarding measures continue to be in effect during the period of remote learning.
- Ensure all pupils 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.

Signed by:

_____	Headteacher	Date: _____
_____	Chair of governors	Date: _____

1. Legal framework

- 1.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Equality Act 2010
 - Education Act 2004
 - The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
 - Data Protection Act 2018
- 1.2. This policy has due regard to national guidance including, but not limited to, the following:
 - 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'
- 1.3. This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies/guidance:
 - Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
 - Data Protection Policy
 - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
 - Behavioural Policy
 - Accessibility Policy
 - Online Safety Policy
 - Health and Safety Policy
 - ICT Acceptable Use Policy
 - Staff Code of Conduct

2. Roles and responsibilities

- 2.1. The governing board 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.
- 2.2. The headteacher is responsible for:
 - Ensuring that staff, parents and pupils adhere to the relevant policies at all times.
 - Ensuring that there are arrangements in place for identifying, evaluating, and managing the risks associated with remote learning.
 - Ensuring that there are arrangements in place 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 pupils.

- Arranging any additional training staff may require to support pupils during the period of remote learning.
- Conducting reviews on a regular basis of the remote learning arrangements to ensure pupils' education does not suffer.

2.3. The business manager is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the relevant health and safety risk assessments are carried out within the agreed timeframes, in collaboration with the headteacher.
- Managing the effectiveness of health and safety measures through a robust system of reporting, investigating, and recording incidents.
- Arranging the procurement of any equipment or technology required for staff to teach remotely and for pupils to learn from home.
- Ensuring value for money when arranging the procurement of equipment or technology.
- Ensuring that the school has adequate insurance.

2.4. The ICT network manager is responsible for:

- Overseeing that all school-owned electronic devices used for remote learning have adequate anti-virus software and malware protection.
- Putting procedures and safe systems of learning into practice, which are designed to eliminate or reduce the risks associated with remote learning.
- Ensuring all staff, parents, and pupils are aware of the data protection principles outlined in the GDPR and ensure all programs used for remote learning are compliant.
- Overseeing that any ICT equipment used for remote learning is resilient and can efficiently recover lost data.

2.5. The DSL is responsible for:

- Attending and arranging, where necessary, any safeguarding meetings that occur during the remote learning period. Identifying vulnerable pupils who may be at risk if they are learning remotely.
- Liaising with the ICT technicians to ensure that all technology used for remote learning is suitable for its purpose and will protect pupils online.
- Ensuring that child protection plans are enforced while the pupil is learning remotely, and liaising with the headteacher and other organisations to make alternate arrangements for pupils who are at a high risk, where required.
- 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.

2.6. The SENCO is responsible for:

- Liaising with the ICT technicians to ensure that the technology used for remote learning is accessible to all pupils and that reasonable adjustments are made where required.
- Ensuring that pupils with EHC plans continue to have their needs met while learning remotely, and liaising with the headteacher and other organisations to ensure access.
- Identifying the level of support/ intervention that is required while pupils learn remotely.
- Ensuring that the provision put in place for pupils with SEND is monitored for effectiveness throughout the duration of the remote learning period.

2.7. The ICT technicians are responsible for:

- 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.
- Working with the SENCO to ensure that the equipment and technology used for learning remotely is accessible to all pupils and staff.

2.8. 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 business manager.
- 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.
- Reporting any potential dangers they identify about remote learning to the headteacher.
- Reporting any defects on school equipment used for learning to an ICT technician.
- Adhering to the Staff Code of Conduct at all times.

2.9. Parents are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.
- Ensuring their child is available to learn remotely at the times set out in paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2 of this policy, and that the schoolwork set is completed on time and to the best of their child's ability.
- Reporting any technical issues to the school as soon as possible.
- Ensuring that their child always has access to remote learning material during the times set out in paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2.
- Reporting any absence in line with the terms set out in paragraph 9.6.
- Ensuring their child uses the equipment and technology used for remote learning as intended.
- Adhering to the home school agreement at all times.

2.10. Pupils are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy at all times during periods of remote learning.
- Ensuring they are available to learn remotely at the times set out in paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2, and that their schoolwork is completed on time and to the best of their ability.
- Report technical issues to the IT technicians and Network manager as soon as possible.
- Ensuring they have 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 work
- Adhering to the Behavioural Policy at all times.

3. Resources

Learning materials

3.1. The school will accept a range of different teaching methods during remote learning to help explain concepts and address misconceptions. For the purpose of providing remote learning, the school may make use of:

- Microsoft TEAMS
- The Pupil Dashboard (online share point for subject specific resources)
- Email
- Online learning portals (e.g Educake, Seneca learning, Maths watch)
- Educational websites (OAK national academy, BBC Bitesize)
- Reading tasks – Read on resource

- Pre-recorded video or audio lessons
 - Exam papers/ past questions
 - Work booklets or printed resources
- 3.2. Teachers will review the DfE's list of [online education resources](#) and utilise these tools as necessary, in addition to existing resources.
 - 3.3. Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure that all pupils have access to the resources needed for effective remote learning.
 - 3.4. Lesson plans will be adapted to ensure that the curriculum remains fully accessible and inclusive via remote learning.
 - 3.5. The school will review the resources pupils have access to and adapt learning to account for all pupils needs by using a range of different formats
 - 3.6. Teaching staff will liaise with the SENCO and other relevant members of staff to ensure all pupils remain fully supported for the duration of the remote learning period.
 - 3.7. The SENCO will arrange additional support for pupils with SEND which will be unique to the individual's needs, e.g. via weekly phone calls.
 - 3.8. Pupils 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.
 - 3.9. For pupils who cannot access digital devices at home, the school will, where possible, apply for technology support through their LA
 - 3.10. Pupils and parents will be required to maintain the upkeep of any equipment they use to access remote learning resources.
 - 3.11. 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 [section 7](#) of this policy.
 - 3.12. The arrangements for any 'live' classes, e.g. webinars, will be communicated via email no later than one day before the allotted time and kept to a reasonable length of no more than one hour per session.
 - 3.13. The ICT technicians are not responsible for providing technical support for equipment that is not owned by the school.

Food provision

- 3.14. The school will signpost parents via letter towards additional support for ensuring their children continue to receive the food they need, e.g. food banks.
- 3.15. Where applicable, the school may provide the following provision for pupils who receive FSM:
 - Making food available for delivery or collection or via food vouchers.

Costs and expenses

- 3.16. The school will not contribute to any household expenses incurred while pupils learn remotely.
- 3.17. The school will not reimburse any costs for travel between pupils' homes and school premises.
- 3.18. The school will not reimburse any costs for childcare.

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

4. Online safety

- 4.1. This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Online Safety Policy.
- 4.2. Where possible, all interactions will be textual and public.
- 4.3. All staff and pupils using video communication must:
- Communicate in groups – one-to-one sessions are not permitted.
 - Wear suitable clothing – this includes others in their household.
 - Be situated in a suitable area within the home with an appropriate background.
 - 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.
- 4.4. All staff and pupils 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.
 - Always remain aware that they can be heard.
- 4.5. The school will consider whether one-to-one sessions are appropriate in some circumstances, e.g. to provide support for pupils with SEND. This will be decided and approved by the **SLT**, in collaboration with the **SENCO**.
- 4.6. The school will risk assess the technology used for remote learning prior to use.
- 4.7. The school will consult with parents to review the most appropriate methods of remote learning.
- 4.8. The school will ensure that all school-owned equipment and technology used for remote learning has suitable anti-virus software installed.
- 4.9. The school will communicate to parents via letter or social media about any measures that need to be put in place if their child is learning remotely
- 4.10. During the period of remote learning, the school will maintain regular contact with parents to:
- Reinforce the importance of children staying safe online.
 - 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.
- 4.11. 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

5. Safeguarding

- 5.1. This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- 5.2. The DSL and headteacher will identify 'vulnerable' pupils (pupils who are deemed to be vulnerable or are at risk of harm) via risk assessment prior to the period of remote learning.
- 5.3. Phone calls made to vulnerable pupils will be made using school phones where possible.
- 5.4. The DSL will arrange for regular contact with vulnerable pupils, with additional contact, including home visits, arranged where required.
- 5.5. All contact with vulnerable pupils will be recorded on paper and suitably stored.
- 5.6. The DSL will keep in contact with vulnerable pupils' social workers or other care professionals during the period of remote working, as required.
- 5.7. All home visits must:
 - Have at least one suitably trained individual present.
 - Be undertaken by no fewer than two members of staff.
 - Be suitably recorded on paper and the records stored.
 - Actively involve the pupil.
- 5.8. Vulnerable pupils will be provided with a means of contacting the DSL, their deputy, or any other relevant member of staff – this arrangement will be set up by the DSL
- 5.9. The DSL will meet (in person or remotely) with the relevant members of staff to discuss new and current safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable pupils learning remotely.
- 5.10. All members of staff will report any safeguarding concerns to the DSL immediately.
- 5.11. Pupils 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.

6. Data protection

- 6.1. This section of policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Data Protection Policy.
- 6.2. Staff members will be responsible for adhering to the GDPR when teaching remotely.
- 6.3. Sensitive data will only be transferred between devices if it is necessary to do so for the purpose of remote learning and teaching.
- 6.4. 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.
- 6.5. Pupils are not permitted to let their family members or friends use any school-owned equipment which contains personal data.
- 6.6. Any breach of confidentiality will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Data and E-Security Breach Prevention Management Plan.

7. Marking and feedback

- 7.1. 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 pupil's ability.
 - The pupil's own work.
 - Pupil work, where appropriate will be marked by the classroom teacher and feedback given in a timely manner.
- 7.2. The school expects pupils and staff to maintain a good work ethic during remote learning.
- 7.3. Pupils are accountable for the completion of their own schoolwork – teaching staff where appropriate will contact parents via email or phone. Class charts behaviour logs will also identify if pupils are not completing their schoolwork or their standard of work has noticeably decreased.
- 7.4. Teaching staff will monitor the academic progress of pupils with and without access to the online learning resources and discuss additional support or provision with the headteacher as soon as possible.
- 7.5. Teaching staff will monitor the academic progress of pupils with SEND and discuss additional support or provision with the SENCO as soon as possible.
- 7.6. The school accepts a variety of formative assessment and feedback methods, e.g. through online platforms (Educake/Senseca/TEAMS) , quizzes and other digital tools from teachers, and will support them with implementing these measures for remote learning where possible.

8. Health and safety

- 8.1. This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Health and Safety Policy.
- 8.2. Teaching staff and ICT technicians will ensure pupils are shown how to use the necessary equipment and technology safely and correctly prior to the period of remote learning.
- 8.3. If using electronic devices during remote learning, pupils will be encouraged to take a five-minute screen break every two hours.
- 8.4. Screen break frequency will be adjusted to five minutes every hour for younger pupils or pupils with medical conditions who require more frequent screen breaks.

9. School day and absence

- 9.1. Pupils will be present for remote learning by 9:05am and cease their remote learning at 3:00pm from Monday to Friday, with the exception of breaks and lunchtimes, as outlined in paragraph 9.2.
- 9.2. Breaks and lunchtimes will take place at the following times each day:
- Morning break will take place at 11.05am until 11.25am.
 - Lunchtime will take place between 1.25pm and 2pm.

- 9.3. Pupils are not expected to do schoolwork during the times outlined in paragraph 9.2 unless they wish to or are directed to as part of additional home learning.
- 9.4. Pupils with SEND or additional medical conditions who require more regular breaks, e.g. sensory breaks, are not expected to do schoolwork during their breaks.
- 9.5. Pupils who are unwell are not expected to be present for remote working until they are well enough to do so.
- 9.6. Parents will inform their child's teacher no later than 8:30am if their child is unwell.
- 9.7. The school will monitor absence and lateness in line with the Attendance Policy.

10. Communication

- 10.1. The school will ensure adequate channels of communication are arranged in the event of an emergency.
- 10.2. The school will communicate with parents via letter, text and the school website about remote learning arrangements as soon as possible.
- 10.3. The headteacher and SLT will communicate with staff as soon as possible via email about any remote learning arrangements.
- 10.4. 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.
- 10.5. The school understands that pupils 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.
- 10.6. Members of staff will have contact with their line manager once per week if out of school.
- 10.7. As much as possible, all communication with pupils and their parents will take place within the school hours outlined in section 9.
- 10.8. Parents and pupils will inform the relevant member of staff as soon as possible if schoolwork cannot be completed.
- 10.9. Issues with remote learning or data protection will be communicated to IT support.
- 10.10. The pupils' teacher will keep parents and pupils informed of any changes to the remote learning arrangements or the schoolwork set for specific subject areas.
- 10.11. The headteacher will review the effectiveness of communication on a regular basis and ensure measures are put in place to address gaps or weaknesses in communication.

11. Monitoring and review

- 11.1. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the headteacher but additional interim reviews will take place as national picture dictates (Covid 19)
- 11.2. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff and other stakeholders.
- 11.3. The next scheduled annual review date for this policy is September 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'

Contingency planning

- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 The school will work closely with the local health protection team when local restrictions apply and implement the provisions within their contingency plan.
- 1.4 The school will communicate its contingency plans for local restrictions with parents, including whether it will remain open to vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers, or if remote working will be applicable for all.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 The level of remote learning provision required will be based on the government's four tiers of local restrictions. Where there are no local

restrictions in place, the school will continue to remain fully open to all, and these tiers will not apply.

Tier 1 local restrictions

- 1.7 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

- 1.8 The school will adopt a rota system which will require a combination of remote learning and classroom-based learning to be provided. The rota will allow for two weeks at home and two weeks in school. This will be year 7,9, and 10 over two weeks followed by year

- 1.9 Children of critical workers and vulnerable children will be able to access full-time on-site provision. Attendance for these pupils will be prioritised and strongly encouraged.

- 1.10 When considering remote learning in a rota system, teachers will:

- Set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day as an online timetable.
- Deliver a planned, coherent and well-sequenced curriculum which allows skills to be built incrementally.
- 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.

2.10 Pupils who will be unable to engage effectively in remote education at home due, e.g. to a lack of devices or quiet space to study, might be considered vulnerable and, therefore, able to attend full-time on-site provision.

Tier 3 local restrictions

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

Tier 4 local restrictions

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

2. Teaching and learning

- 2.1 All pupils will have access to high-quality education when remote working.

- 2.2 The school will use a range of teaching methods to cater for all different learning styles, see section 3.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 All provisions for remote learning will be subject to the class group's age, ability and/or any SEND.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 Teachers will continue to make use of formative assessments throughout the academic year in line with the remote learning policy.
- 2.8 The school will utilise the support available through the DfE's 'Get help with technology during coronavirus (COVID-19)' scheme.
- 2.9 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 7 to 11
 - Clinically extremely vulnerable children across all year groups who are shielding or self-isolating in line with government advice
 - Children in all year groups who are unable to access remote education whilst attending school on a hospital site
- 2.10 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 and their families use the devices safely.

2.11 Once devices are ready for collection, the school will either arrange for them to be collected by families from school or delivered to pupils' homes, ensuring infection control measures are adhered to as part of this process.

3. Returning to school

- 3.1 The headteacher will work with the LA to ensure pupils only return to school when it is safe for them to do so.
- 3.2 After a period of self-isolation, or the lessening of local lockdown rules, the headteacher will inform parents when their child will return to school.
- 3.3 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.

4. Monitoring and review

- 4.1 This policy annex will be reviewed in line with any updates to government guidance.
- 4.2 All changes to the policy will be communicated to relevant members of the school community.