Shipston-on-Stour
Primary School

Continuity of Learning Policy

1.   INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

This policy outlines our plan for providing high-quality remote education when it is not possible for some or all pupils to attend school. It is based on the Department for Education's non-statutory guidance, [Providing remote education: guidance for schools (2024)](#).

Attendance is essential for pupils' attainment and wellbeing, and remote education should only be considered as a last resort when the alternative would be no education.

There may be exceptional occasions, such as severe weather events (e.g., snow or flooding) or problems with school utilities, where a decision is made to close the school at short notice. In these circumstances, we are prepared to provide remote education to ensure pupils can continue with their learning.

This policy sets out the systems and technology that our staff will use to maintain the learning experience for our children, ensuring it is effective, safe, and considerate of the differing needs of families and staff workload. The school's Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Agreements remain in full effect during any period of remote education.

Our strategy is based on:

• An asynchronous approach to teaching, maintaining our pedagogical principles.
• Using familiar digital tools to provide a suitable and supportive online learning environment.
• Reducing the reliance on high-bandwidth internet connections that may not be available to all families.

The school's Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Agreements still apply at this time.

The strategy outlined below is predicated on:

- A largely asynchronous approach to teaching and learning, maintaining our pedagogical principles.
- Using existing tools with which staff are likely to be familiar to leverage digital, provide a suitable online learning environment and provide learning partnership opportunities.
- Reducing the reliance on high-bandwidth, stable internet connections which may not necessarily be available.

2.   WHEN REMOTE EDUCATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

In line with the Department for Education's guidance, circumstances where it might not be possible for pupils to receive in-person education fit into two broad categories:

1. School closures or restrictions on attendance, where school access for pupils is restricted (e.g., an emergency closure due to severe weather).

2. Individual cases, where a pupil is unable to attend school for a short period but is well enough to learn.

In all cases, providing remote education will be a short-term solution, and every effort will be made to resume in-person teaching as soon as possible.

3. OUR APPROACH TO REMOTE LEARNING

We understand that every family's circumstances are different, and some parents may have less time to support their children's learning. For this reason, we provide a flexible approach and will not offer a full day of live-streamed lessons, which can be unmanageable for families and place excessive demands on screen time. Instead, we will provide a variety of daily online and offline activities across the curriculum.

Our approach is supported by evidence from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), which found that the quality of teaching is more important than how lessons are delivered. Key findings include:

- The elements of effective teaching - clear explanations, scaffolding, and feedback - are what matter most.
- Peer interactions help motivate pupils and improve learning outcomes.
- Supporting pupils to work independently is crucial for successful remote learning.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Teachers are responsible for:

- Setting a sequenced timetable of work that mirrors the lessons being taught in the classroom, with accompanying resources.
- Using our online platforms to set work, assess progress, and provide feedback to pupils.
- Keeping in regular contact with pupils and their parents/carers.

Teaching Assistants will:

- Support pupils with their remote learning as directed by the class teacher.
- Provide differentiated support for pupils with SEND, as directed by the SENDCO.
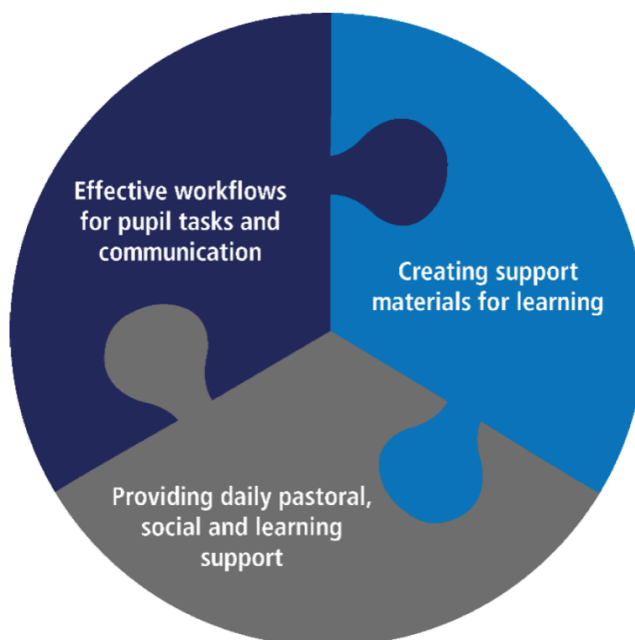
Senior Leaders will:

- Coordinate the remote learning approach across the school.
- Monitor the effectiveness and security of our remote learning provision.
- A designated senior leader holds overarching responsibility for the quality of remote education.

5. CONTINUITY OF LEARNING STRATEGY

Our remote learning is delivered through a range of familiar sites and services, focusing on foundational knowledge and complemented by paper-based activities where appropriate.

- **Communication:** Seesaw is our primary method of communication between school and families. Timetables and all learning resources will be posted here.
- **Teaching Materials:** Teachers will create short, pre-recorded videos using tools like Loom to explain concepts and model tasks, allowing pupils to see and hear their teacher in a familiar way. We will also use high-quality external resources, such as Oak National Academy and White Rose Maths.
- **Online Platforms:** We will continue to use our established online platforms for English and Maths, including Accelerated Reader, Dr Frost, and Times Tables Rockstars.
- **Pastoral and Social Support:** To maintain a sense of class community, teachers may hold short video conferences with small groups or the whole class using Google Meet. These are intended as social check-ins rather than formal lessons. Strict safeguarding protocols must be followed during any video calls.

6. PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH SEND

We are committed to ensuring our pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) can access remote education successfully. Teachers will work collaboratively with families to meet pupils' needs effectively. The school will continue to use its 'best endeavours' to secure the special educational provision required by a pupil's needs, in line with our duties under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Equality Act 2010.

7. OUR REMOTE LEARNING OFFER

Scenario 1: An individual child is absent but is well enough to learn. The DfE guidance states there should only be limited circumstances where a pupil is unable to attend school but is able and well enough to continue their education remotely. These circumstances should only involve a short-term absence and might include pupils:

- Recovering from short-term infectious illnesses.
- Preparing for or recovering from some operations.
- Recovering from injuries where attendance might inhibit recovery.

In these limited cases, the school will consider providing remote education on a case-by-case basis and in mutual agreement with parents/carers. The provision will be a short-term solution to allow the pupil to keep on track with their education and may include:

- Work set on our online platforms.
- Hyperlinks to relevant lessons from Oak National Academy or White Rose Maths.
- A paper pack of learning activities.

Scenario 2: The school is closed for all pupils due to an emergency (e.g., snow day, flood, or utility failure). When the school makes the decision to close, teachers will revert to remote learning.

- A daily timetable will be set on Seesaw, outlining a range of online and offline activities.
- The timetable will include daily lessons for Maths and English, alongside activities for topic, PE (exercise), and other subjects.
- Teachers and teaching assistants will be available on Seesaw to provide support and feedback.
- In the event of a snow day, while remote learning will be provided, we fully expect and encourage children to have plenty of time to play in the snow and enjoy the experience! Our timetable will be flexible to accommodate this.

8.   DIGITAL ACCESS AND SAFEGUARDING

The school will work to overcome barriers to digital access where possible, for example, by providing printed resources.

All remote education will be delivered in line with our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy to ensure children are kept safe online, which includes information on filtering and monitoring of managed devices. We will share information with parents and carers to support them in keeping their children safe online.