

Remote Learning Policy

Content	Responsible	Date
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1. Online and Remote Learning

Online learning is an area of rapid development and infinite possibility.

Through a blended approach, Remote Learning can support and enhance the teaching and learning that takes place in school.

Online and Remote Learning can provide continuity of education to learners in the event of an extended period of full or partial school closure.

2. Educational rationale

- The school is committed to a high-quality provision of online learning
- Online learning provides continuity of education in the event of school closure
- The school is developing its provision of online learning to supplement and support pedagogy
- Online and Remote Learning can provide an additional level of accessibility for learners
- Response to the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic

3. Forced closure or cohort isolation

In the event of a school closure, the school is committed to providing continuity of education to its learners through a process of remote (online) learning.

Extensive Remote Learning would apply particularly in a situation in which the school is closed for an extended period of time, but a high proportion of learners and teachers are healthy, and able to work as normal from home. This policy does not apply in the event of short-term school closures (e.g. as a result of inclement weather) or a short-term learner absence. Another relevant instance would be if, following an infectious disease outbreak, learners are self-isolating at home but are not suffering with relevant symptoms.

There is no obligation for the school to provide continuity of education to learners who absent themselves from school, with or without parental permission, in contravention to school or government guidance. This would apply, for example, if parents choose to take learners on holiday during term time. Similarly, this would apply if parents made the decision, without prior agreement with the school, to absent their child from school 'as a precaution', against official guidance, in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease.

It remains the responsibility of the parents to ensure the child is present at school for their learning.

4. Remote Learning for individual learners

Assuming an absence has been agreed with the school, and the learner in question is healthy enough to work from home, the school will provide work for learners who are unable to attend in person. If this occurs for an individual learner, the collation of work and communication with the parent/carer will be coordinated by the learner's House Manager. This work may not necessarily be the same as work completed by learners in school.

Though every case may be unique, a rough guideline for the frequency of communication between school and parent/carer would be once per week. Work will be provided to learners in this way as long as there is an agreed absence lasting more than three working days.

If a significant number of learners are absent from school, but the school remains open, the school will decide whether the method of Remote Learning operated will take the form outlined here, or as outlined below

5. Remote Learning in the event of extended school closure

In the event of an extended school closure, the school will provide continuity of education in the following ways:

- Regular direct instruction from teachers, with the ability of learners to ask questions online (via email)
- The setting of work that learners complete, written responses (if relevant) completed electronically and submitted to the teacher either through Show My Homework or via email.
- Learners and teachers are expected to have access to the internet whilst at home. The school recognises that families may not have access to printers and therefore, will not expect the printing of material.
- The school will seek to support students and families who are deemed vulnerable through making applications for government schemes in order to try to help these students access any devices.

The primary platforms the school will use to deliver continuity of education are:

- Microsoft Teams: accessed via the relevant app or desktop application, or via the following URL: <u>https://teams.microsoft.com</u> and through RM Unify.
- Show My Homework: accessed via the relevant app, or via the following URL: <u>https://www.satchelone.com/</u>

Individual departments may use other platforms to direct students to subject specific content. However, the primary method used will remain the same.

The extent to which different methods of instruction are employed will be influenced by the length of school closure and the ability of both learners and teachers to participate in Remote Learning. The school reserves the right to vary the range of methods used to provide Remote Learning tasks, feedback and interaction, based on the particular circumstances of any closure and based on our experience as education professionals.

6. Live sessions

Subject areas will also arrange for teachers to deliver content in a 'live' manner (either by text or audio and/or visual means). Microsoft Teams will be the platform used to deliver live sessions. Staff have had appropriate training to use this platform and this will form part of their induction programme upon appointment.

Microsoft Teams is a platform that allows for resources to be shared, teachers to provide exposition, and learners to ask questions in 'real-time'. Learners will be provided with details of

sessions, and will be expected to participate in them if they are asked and able to. A register for the sessions will be taken, and unauthorised absences will be followed up by members of staff.

Live sessions are particularly helpful as they help communication, learners' ability to ask questions and to respond to teachers' questions via the conversation functionality in Microsoft Teams.

Learners must use their school email address to avoid any issues regarding safeguarding and GDPR. There will be no expectation for parents/carers or learners to provide their own email addresses for use. Staff must also use only their school email address.

7. Assessment

Providing timely and helpful feedback is a cornerstone of good learning and teaching. Whilst Remote Learning may make this more challenging, teachers will endeavour to provide regular feedback to learners on pieces of work that they are required to submit. Under normal circumstances, not all pieces of work are formally assessed by teachers and this would continue to be the case should the school employ Remote Learning.

Given the nature of the tasks, the type of feedback teachers can provide may not have the same format as in school. Teachers are encouraged to ensure, when they set assessed work, that it is designed in such a way that meaningful feedback may be provided.

Possible methods may include:

- Providing whole class feedback rather than feedback on individual pieces of work. This is an effective way of providing feedback, supported by findings from educational research
- Using the "Comments" function on Show My Homework.
- Verbal feedback through Microsoft Teams.
- Sending specific feedback and targets via email

8. Expectations of learners

Assuming that learners are healthy and well enough to work, they will be expected to participate as fully as possible in the Remote Learning process. This includes participation in relevant live sessions, completion of independent work, and prompt submission of assessed tasks, fulfilled to the best of their ability. Learners are expected to read and respond to communication from the school (e.g. emails) on a daily basis.

Pupils should ensure that, in addition to completing the tasks promptly, they complete any administrative tasks that allow the school to monitor their progress. If pupils or parents have any questions about the nature of specific tasks set, these should be directed towards the relevant subject area. If there are questions about a learner's overall workload (e.g. a pupil feels they are overwhelmed or falling behind), these should be directed to the pupil's House Manager.

Teachers will work on the assumption that learners will not necessarily have the full range of books and equipment that they would usually have in school. The Pastoral Team will support those students that experience any issues with resources, as far as is possible.

The school does not expect pupils to have access to specialist equipment that would usually be provided (e.g. Science or Art). Teachers should ensure they are able to scan or upload photos of important resources in case learners do not have access to them at home.

The school expects that parents have Internet access at home to access Remote Learning resources, but teachers will make no presumption of the learner's ability to print at home.

9. Expectations of teachers

The setting and assessment of Remote Learning tasks will take place in accordance with school and subject area policies. Under normal circumstances, subject areas take different approaches to the setting and assessment of learners' work. For example, the frequency of substantive tasks set, and the regularity of written assessment provided will differ from one subject to another. This will differ from subject to subject. A schedule of when work will be placed on Show My Homework will be planned by each subject area. It may be that it is not always the learner's specific teacher that sets the work. This schedule will be shared with learners and their parents.

In order to achieve a consistent approach, Curriculum Leaders are responsible for both supporting staff and quality assuring the nature and frequency of tasks set and assessed within their subject areas. This will be monitored by Deputy and Assistant Headteachers. All teachers should pay due care to the nature of tasks set, so that learners have a range of activities to complete at home and are not exclusively working on a screen. Teachers are responsible for providing constructive feedback to their learners in a timely manner.

In the event of teacher illness during a period of Remote Learning, it is the responsibility of the Curriculum Leader to ensure work is set to her/his classes. Should it be the Curriculum Leader who is unwell, a subject specialist with delegated responsibility will assume this role.

If parents ask for additional work beyond that set as part of the requirements above, subject areas will have a bank of general resources/sites available and will point pupils and parents in that direction.

In order to ensure teachers are able to perform the minimum expectations outlined above; the school will provide a range of training opportunities that teachers should access before any planned school closure. Teachers should ensure that they have looked through specific instructions, watched walkthroughs, and attended teacher training sessions. If teachers require support with any aspects of Remote Learning, they will consult their line managers or the ICT Support Team.

Unless there are extenuating circumstances, teachers will be expected to be contactable remotely by colleagues, learners and parents. Staff should ensure their communication with learners and others does not encourage unhelpful work habits. All communication should take place during usual office hours, with no expectation for colleagues to read or respond to emails after 5.30pm, although responses should be made to electronic messages within one working day in normal practice. For those who are on part-time contracts, communication is expected only on the days on which they would usually work.

Communication must always occur via official school email addresses or via school telephone and not through personal accounts or other websites.

10. Support for pupils with SEND, EAL and other specific learning enhancement needs

Teachers should ensure that work is differentiated as required for all learners when setting online tasks. Learning plans are in place for SEND pupils. These give support, advice and strategies. Advice can be sought from the SENDCo.

In addition, the SEND Team (as directed by the SENDCo) will maintain contact with pupils requiring regular support, by email or phone with parents/learners and feed back to teachers if required. All communication, where possible, will be conducted by the SEND Keyworker.

As far as possible, the interventions outlined in the EHCP will continue, although possibly in a different format. In the event of an intervention not being possible, this will be communicated to the parents.

SEND risk assessments will be adapted in the event of online learning taking place.

11. Pastoral care during a school closure

In event of a school closure, the primary responsibility for the pastoral care of a learner rests with their parents/carers. However, House Managers and/or form tutors will check in regularly to monitor both academic progress and their general wellbeing. They will support subject teachers and Curriculum Leaders to monitor engagement with Remote Learning and support all students with any pastoral issues that may be barriers to learning.

Should teachers contact home, they will be expected to pass on feedback to the Pastoral Team, particularly if there are concerns or a lack of communication.

The Pastoral Team will identify the most vulnerable students and maintain regular contact in order to support or provide interventions with learners. They will use Microsoft Teams or via telephone to facilitate this. Home visits will continue as and when required.

12. Safeguarding during a school closure

In the event of a school closure, pupils, parents, carers and teachers are reminded that the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy still applies to all interactions between pupils and teachers. In that policy, there are specifically prohibited behaviours and reporting obligations to which teachers must adhere, whether they are at home, in the community or at school.

The school will continue to adhere to the KCSIE 2020, Keeping Children safe in education document.

The school will adapt, where required any risk assessments based on vulnerability and safeguarding.

The school will continue to log concerns and disclosures on CPOMs. The normal procedures will be adhered to regardless of the students being in school or learning online.

Students are guided and supported with online safety.

Student Virtual Classroom Expectations

- This is a virtual classroom, and Manor High expectations should be adhered to at all times.
- SLANT, SHAPE and STEPS all apply as normal as per classrooms.
- Attendance at sessions is not voluntary, attendance is expected, as it is in school. Any illness or other issues should be discussed with school and your teacher and House Manager. A register will be taken every day and calls will be made home in the morning for any absent students in the interest of their safety and learning.
- Students are 'attendees' on Microsoft Teams.
- Students should be punctual at virtual classroom sessions, as expected when in school.
- Microphones must be muted unless directed otherwise by the teacher.
- Webcams must be off at all times.
- Students should be in a **populated place** such as a sitting room or kitchen during the meeting and preferably not in their bedroom.
- Appropriate clothing should be worn. Sleepwear is not appropriate, for example.
- Students should use the hands up feature to contribute or ask questions.
- Students should use standard English in the chat facility and use it for communication about learning only.
- Students should not attend or invite anyone to meetings that they have been invited to other than those organised by a member of staff.
- Students should leave the meeting when instructed to do so by the teacher.
- It is expected that work is completed during sessions in the same way it is in classrooms.

Microsoft Teams Guidelines for Staff delivering Online Learning:

- A register of attendance should be taken, and any students absent must be followed up, and reported to the Pastoral Team.
- Ensure that students have **turned off** their webcams. This is for your safety and theirs.
- Students should also have their **microphones muted** unless directed by you.
- Ensure that students are directed to be in a **populated place** such as a sitting room or kitchen during the meeting and preferably not in their bedroom.
- They should be appropriately dressed- no sleepwear.
- Don't record the meeting unless you have **specific permission** from ALL parents. This should be given in writing prior to the meeting.
- If you decide to share what is on your screen, please ensure that **no data or student details** are there.
- As normal, **safeguarding concerns** must be raised with the **DSLs** adhering to the normal procedure using CPOMs.
- If in school, your webcam and microphone should mainly be on. There are times when using other visual stimuli that this may not be required.
- Follow the instructions in the tutorials sent by ICT Support and the Curriculum Leader for CS, and use only school email addresses for staff and students.
- If students are having issues, direct them to the videos on SMHW or to contact ICT support.
- Students should not be permitted to be in meetings without a member of staff present.
- Ensure that the Student Virtual Classroom Expectations are clearly displayed in every Microsoft Teams Invite sent to students.







