REMOTE LEARNING POLICY

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Reviewed policy shared with staff on:	Spring 2023
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Committee responsible for review:	Policy Committee

Remote Learning Policy

- Remote learning is delivered when children are unable to access face to face teaching and learning in school with their teacher for an extended period of time but are well enough to participate in learning when they are not in school.

- Remote learning would usually happen when a child is at home preparing for surgery or post- surgery if they are well enough to access learning.

- Remote learning is online learning, usually delivered through Google Classroom or tailored work packs supported by regular guidance from teachers

One of the benefits of remote learning is that it can support a project or course of study to progress whilst not requiring teachers and learners to be in the same physical space at all times. It is important to consider remote learning within the ongoing development of the whole school: we recognise things may change over time and that there is no 'one size fits all' ideal.

Rationale

During extended periods of absence where a child is able to access learning, children should have the opportunity to continue their high-quality education at home, supported by the skills and expertise of their teacher. This policy aims to provide clear guidelines on how children can engage meaningfully in their education remotely and what parents can expect from their schools during periods of home learning. Remote learning is a partnership. We rely on parents to give us feedback on what is working and what is not so that we can constantly refine and develop our offer so that it is highly effective at keeping children on track with their learning.

Remote learning refers to the teaching, learning activities and learning opportunities provided by the class teacher to our children for a prolonged period of time that involves them being away from school.

This document aims to clarify the implementation of Remote Learning at Willow Dene, outlining Health and Safety guidelines, and directions to ensure

children's needs are met as best as we possibly can. To deliver a coherent range of curricular experiences, our staff are committed to giving children access to learning activities which will meet their needs, building upon prior learning.

Teaching and Learning: Roles and Responsibilities
The role of staff:

- To provide a balance between new learning as well as reinforcing and consolidation of prior learning.
- To provide children who are at home with access to similar learning being taught in school, ensuring inclusivity across the curriculum
- To promote an ethos of inclusion, respect, fairness, and equality
- To ensure that cyber resilience and internet safety is central to all digital technology where appropriate
- To provide support and guidance for children and families
- To keep abreast of research and the national agenda
- To engage with effective learning and teaching resources
- To foster an open pathway of communication between the school and home
- To adhere to government safeguarding and health and safety guidelines

Staff will:
- Through a dialogue with families, select an appropriate teaching and learning approach with learning tasks that are complementary and coherent across learning environments
- Provide broad, general education remote learning tasks
- Consider the most important elements of teaching and learning that are needed and which elements will be more difficult to explain remotely
- Provide support to parents and carers enabling them to scaffold and assess learning
- Be mindful that extra support may be required where parents and guardians are less able to do this themselves
- Provide specialist equipment for families to ensure children's physiological and sensory needs can be met

The role of parents:
- To support the school values.
- To foster an open communication between the school and home

- To use Google Classroom to access remote learning materials which support, complement and consolidate school learning
- To ensure your child completes remote learning tasks online
- To communicate through the usual channels if they want to discuss something with the teacher
- To make the school aware of any issues with access to technology

Safeguarding

Keeping teachers safe when providing remote education is also essential. it is important that schools understand how to approach safeguarding procedures online. We cannot emphasise enough the importance of a safe online environment and encourage parents and carers to set developmentally age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices and use internet filters to block malicious websites. These are usually free, but often need to be turned on.

It is essential to have and communicate clear reporting routes so that children, teachers, parents and carers can raise any safeguarding concerns. If you have any concerns, please phone the school office or use the contact email address. All information will be treated in confidence and where necessary reported to the appropriate agencies.

Live Lessons
The vast majority of our learning will be pre-recorded lessons containing voice-overs or materials from other platforms. If, however, we do provide live classes here are some basic principles to safeguard everyone during remote learning:

- Group meetings only. No one-to-one meetings with children unless the parent is present
- Staff and children must wear suitable clothing, as should anyone else in the household
- Staff devices used should be located in appropriate areas, and where possible be against a neutral background or use the blur background options
- The live class should be recorded and backed up elsewhere, so that if any issues were to arise, the video can be reviewed
- Live classes should be kept to a reasonable length of time, or the streaming may prevent the family 'getting on' with their day
- Language must be professional and appropriate, including any family members in the background
- Schools should risk assess the use of live learning using webcams