



Abbey College, Ramsey

Pupil Remote Learning Policy

Policy Developed by:	Kate Wibberley
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Contents:

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Roles and responsibilities
3. Resources
4. Online safety
5. Safeguarding
6. Data protection
7. Marking and feedback
8. Health and safety
9. School day and absence
10. Communication
11. Monitoring and review

Statement of intent

At **Abbey College**, Ramsey we understand the need to continually deliver high quality education, including during periods of remote working – 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 working, 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.
- Ensure all staff know what is expected in the provision of remote learning for students.

1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation, guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Data Protection Act 2018
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006
- DfE (2023) 'Providing remote education'
- DfE (2022) 'Safeguarding and remote education'
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education 2023'
- DfE (2015) 'SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years'
- DfE (2022) 'Working together to improve school attendance'
- DfE (2022) 'Health and safety: responsibilities and duties for schools'
- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety for school children'
- DfE (2016) 'Children missing education'
- DfE (2020) 'Help with accessing and buying resources for remote education'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Data Protection Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy

- Accessibility Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Attendance and Absence Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Marking and Feedback Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Children Missing Education Policy
- Home Visit Risk Assessment

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1. The **Governing Body** is responsible for:

- Ensuring that online safety training for staff is integrated, aligned and considered as part of the school's overarching safeguarding approach.
- Deciding whether information regarding the school's remote learning offering should be published on the school's website.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the school's remote learning arrangements.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of this policy on an **annual** basis in conjunction with the Headteacher.

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.
- Ensuring that the school has the resources necessary to action the procedures in this policy.
- Ensuring that pupils have access to remote learning as soon as reasonably practicable, where appropriate.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of this policy on an **annual** basis in conjunction with the governing board and communicating any changes to staff, parents, and pupils.
- Arranging any additional training staff may be required to support pupils during the period of remote learning.
- Conducting reviews on a **weekly** basis of the remote learning arrangements to ensure pupils' education does not suffer.

2.3. The SLT **Health and Safety Lead** is responsible for:

- Ensuring 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.
- Ensuring that pupils identified as being at risk are provided 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.
- Ensuring all staff, parents, and pupils are aware of the data protection principles outlined in the GDPR.

2.4. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (**DSL**) is responsible for:

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

2.5. The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (**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 make any alternative arrangements for pupils with EHC (Education Health Care) plans and IHPs (Individual Health Care) Plans.
- Identifying the level of support or intervention that is required while pupils with SEND 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.

2.6. The **Business Manager** is responsible for:

- 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 to cover all remote working arrangements.

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.
- Overseeing that any ICT equipment used for remote learning is resilient and can efficiently recover lost data.
- 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.
- Ensuring that all computer programs used for remote learning are compliant with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- 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 **health and safety officer** 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 **DSL**.
- Reporting any defects on school-owned equipment used for remote learning to an **ICT technician**.
- Adhering to the **Staff Code of Conduct** at all times.
- Following the staff expectations document at all times (Appendix A).

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 **Parent Code of Conduct** at all times.
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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 of this policy, and that their schoolwork is completed on time and to the best of their ability.

- Reporting any technical issues and any safeguarding concerns or incidents to **their teacher** 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 the schoolwork they have been set.
- Ensuring they use any equipment and technology for remote learning as intended.
- Adhering to the **Behaviour and Inclusion Policy** at all times.

3. Resources

Learning materials

- 3.1. For the purpose of providing remote learning, the school may make use of:
 - Work booklets
 - Email and Teams
 - Past and mock exam papers
 - Online learning portals
 - Educational websites
 - Reading tasks
 - Live webinars
 - Live lessons
 - Pre-recorded video or audio lessons on Teams
- 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 via remote learning, where practical – where this is not practical, the school will ensure pupils can catch up on these areas of the curriculum when they return to school.
- 3.5. 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.
- 3.6. Any defects or issues with remote learning resources will be reported as soon as possible to the relevant member of staff.
- 3.7. 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.
- 3.8. Pupils and parents will be responsible for the upkeep of any equipment they use to access remote learning resources.

- 3.9. 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.
- 3.10. Remote education will be provided for **five** hours a day for pupils in **KS3** and **KS4**.
- 3.11. The arrangements for live classes, e.g., webinars, will be clearly signposted for students and kept to a reasonable length of no more than **60 minutes of live teaching time**, per session.
- 3.12. The **ICT technicians** are not responsible for providing technical support for equipment that is not owned by the school.

Food provision

- 3.13. 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.
- 3.14. Where applicable, the school may provide the following for pupils who receive Free School Meals (FSM):
 - Vouchers to families

Costs and expenses

- 3.14. The school will not contribute to any household expenses incurred while pupils learn remotely, e.g., heating, lighting, electricity or extendable power points or council tax.
- 3.15. The school will not reimburse any costs for travel between pupils' homes and the school premises.
- 3.16. The school will not reimburse any costs for childcare.
- 3.17. If a pupil is provided with school-owned equipment, the pupil and their parent will sign and adhere to the **ICT 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 **E 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 'public' living area within the home with an appropriate background – 'private' living areas within the home, such as bedrooms, are not recommended during video communication.
 - 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.
- 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.
 - Ensure they have a stable connection to avoid disruption to lessons.
 - 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 **DSL**, in collaboration with the **SENCO**.
- 4.6. Pupils not using devices or software as intended will be disciplined in line with the **Behaviour & Inclusion Policy**.
- 4.7. 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.
- 4.8. The school will ensure that all school-owned equipment and technology used for remote learning has suitable anti-virus software installed, can establish secure connections, can recover lost work, and allows for audio and visual material to be recorded or downloaded, where required.
- 4.9. During the period of remote learning, the school will maintain regular contact with parents to:
- Reinforce the importance of children staying safe online.
 - 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.
- 4.10. 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.

5. Safeguarding

5.1. This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

All teaching staff will be made aware that the procedures set out in the school's Staff Code of Conduct apply at all times during the delivery of remote education.

Regular communications with parents will be used to reinforce the importance of keeping pupils safe online. Parents will be made aware of the systems the school uses to filter and monitor online use, as well as what their children are being asked to do during remote education, including:

- The sites that they will be accessing.
- The school staff that they will be interacting with online.

The DSL will arrange for regular contact to be made with vulnerable pupils during a period of remote education.

Additional contact, including home visits, will be considered where required. Phone calls made to vulnerable pupils will be made using school phones where possible.

The DSL will keep in contact with vulnerable pupils' social workers or other care professionals when the pupil is receiving remote education, as required.

All home visits will:

- Have at least **one** suitably trained individual present.
- Actively involve the pupil.
- Only take place following the completion of a Home Visit Risk Assessment.

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 prior to the period of remote learning.

All members of staff will report any safeguarding concerns to the DSL immediately. 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 for reporting these concerns.

Staff will always have due regard for the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy during remote education, e.g. whilst conducting live online lessons.

The planning of live lessons will always be carried out in conjunction with the school's DSL.

The school will ensure the system used for live online lessons does not have a minimum age requirement above the age bracket of pupils attending the lesson.

Pupils will not share private information through the live online system. Pupils will not respond to contact requests from people they do not know when using systems for live online lessons.

Pupils will be told to contact the Welfare Department, should they see or hear anything inappropriate during live online lessons.

Staff will ensure all video and phone calls are not set to public.

Staff will uphold their safeguarding obligations and will report any incidents or potential concerns to the DSL in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The school will ensure that parents know what pupils are expected to do for a live online lesson, including the websites pupils will be asked to use and the school staff pupils will interact with online.

The school will communicate the importance of online safety to parents, and encourage parents to set age-appropriate parental controls on digital devices and use internet filters to block malicious websites.

6. Data protection

- 6.1. This section of the 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 and will ensure the confidentiality and integrity of their devices at all times.
- 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. Parents' and pupils' up-to-date contact details will be requested at the start of each year and reminders sent prior to the period of remote learning.
- 6.6. All contact details will be stored in line with the **Data Protection Policy** and retained in line with the **Records Management Policy and Retention Schedule**.
- 6.7. The school will not permit paper copies of contact details to be taken off the school premises.
- 6.8. Pupils are not permitted to let their family members or friends use any school owned equipment which contains personal data.
- 6.9. Any breach of confidentiality will be dealt with in accordance with the school's **Data Protection and Freedom of Information policy**.
- 6.10. Any intentional breach of confidentiality will be dealt with in accordance with the school's **Behavioural Policy** or the **Disciplinary Policy and Procedure**.

7. Marking and feedback

- 7.1. All schoolwork set through remote learning must be:
 - Complete when returned to the relevant member of teaching staff.
 - Returned by the deadline set by the relevant member of teaching staff.
 - Completed to the best of the pupil's ability.
 - The pupil's own work.
 - Marked in line with the **Marking and Feedback Policy**.
 - Returned to the pupil, once marked, by an agreed date.
- 7.2. The school expects pupils and staff to maintain a good work ethic and a high quality of work during the period of remote learning.
- 7.3. Pupils are accountable for the completion of their own schoolwork – teaching staff will contact parents via **email** if their child is not completing their schoolwork or their standard of work has noticeably decreased.
- 7.4. Work that cannot be completed for genuine reasons will be completed when the pupil returns to school.

- 7.5. 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 their line manager as soon as possible.
- 7.6. Teaching staff will monitor the academic progress of pupils with SEND and discuss additional support or provision with the **SENCO** as soon as 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.
- 8.5. If any incidents or near-misses occur in a pupil'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.

9. School day and absence

- 9.1. Pupils will be present for remote learning from **8:40am** and complete their timetabled lessons.
- 9.2. Pupils who are unwell are not expected to be present for remote working until they are well enough to do so.
- 9.3. Parents should inform the school attendance team if their child is not well, by emailing attendance@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk by **8:30am**.

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** and the **school website** about remote learning arrangements as soon as possible.
- 10.3. The **Headteacher** 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 are available to respond to students online 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**.
- 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 should 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 the **pupil's teacher** as soon as possible so they can investigate and resolve the issue.
- 10.10. The **pupil's teacher** will keep parents and pupils informed of any changes to the remote learning arrangements or the schoolwork set.
- 10.11. The **Headteacher** will review the effectiveness of communication on a **weekly** 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**.
- 11.2. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff and other stakeholders.
- 11.3. The next scheduled review date for this policy is **Spring 2026**.