



Overstone Combined School

Remote Learning Policy

Revised January 2024

This policy was adopted – January 2024

To be reviewed – January 2027 (or sooner if appropriate)

Introduction

Following the Covid pandemic, procedures were established for learning provision in the event of school lockdowns and class or pupil isolation periods.

Post pandemic, Buckinghamshire Council have stated that such procedures should remain in place for any occasion when school closures are required, for example, due to severe weather and/or risk to the health & safety of our pupils, staff and school community.

The same procedures would also be possible for children experiencing long-term absence due to illness or specific family circumstances in agreement with the Headteacher.

Whole class/school measures would only be activated as a last resort or as directed by the local authority – the priority at Overstone Combined School continues to be remaining open with appropriate staffing for learning to take place on site.

Exact provision will be agreed by the school leadership and communicated to parents based on the circumstances of a specific closure and the notice/timing of said closure. This provision may include all or some of the following:

Hard Copy Resources

If we know of a planned closure, children will be provided with hard copy resources relevant to their age/ability.

Guidance will be provided for parents to support their children's learning at home when marking and feedback is most useful and constructive.

Once a period of closure ends and the children affected return to school, these resources will be returned to class so that the class teacher can assess the children's progress and needs moving forward. Said resources may also be required for further periods of closure.

Online Resources

Online systems already in use in school will continue to be accessible during periods of closure:

- Parentmail/email
- Class Dojo
- TT Rockstars

The extent to which these resources are used will depend on the specific circumstances of a period of closure, especially where availability/wellness of staff is concerned.

If a class teacher is able, daily school day tasks will be set and monitored on Class Dojo. Children will be asked to share the work they have completed by either uploading it to Class Dojo or keeping hard copies at home until they return.

Children are also welcome to post other items of learning to share with staff but specific set tasks will be prioritised.

Where a whole class is affected for an extended period, a virtual platform can be used as a tool to organise whole class get togethers, both for learning and socialising. The frequency and length of the sessions will depend on the age of the children.

The uploading of learning tasks online will be used to monitor 'attendance' during periods of closure however, parents are asked to keep the school informed if their children are unable to engage in learning on a given day.

'Live' Learning

The school is able to provide some 'live' learning but notes varied access to technology and internet across school households in our rural setting. The nature, quantity and quality of technology available, plus sibling factors, make it impossible to provide a reliable, consistent and extensive provision in this way.

The school can make use of video content via the Class Doj platforms and other online services, for example YouTube and The Oak Academy, to provide a multimedia experience.

Depending on the specific circumstances of a closure period, staff could use a virtual platform to provide a live session for children to start the day, provide specific input and outline independent learning expectations.

Where large groups may be both on and off site, some elements of live learning may be possible but remain dependent on the nature and resourcing of the class-based activities that day.

In all live learning scenarios, it remains the responsibility of the supervising adult at home to oversee behaviour and technical matters which will otherwise disrupt the learning for the remainder of the class.

The school will communicate specific arrangements based on the circumstances at the time and endeavour to provide the broadest learning experience possible with the staffing and resources available.

E-safety and Safeguarding

Staff and parents have a collective responsibility to safeguard the children when using online platforms and engaging in live learning.

Staff will continue to remind the children of the importance of e-safety relating to specific activities as they would in school. The children should inform a trusted adult if they experience any inappropriate material or communications.

Parents are responsible for the oversight of internet use and web-filtering at home. Whilst staff check links and sites before providing these to the children, the experience will vary due to any personal settings at home, for example, pop-ups, filtering and advertising.

When engaging with live learning or creating video content, parents are responsible for ensuring their children are appropriately dressed and not in a bedroom setting.

Learning Time & Management

The school acknowledges that home circumstances vary and, whilst it is vital to keep the children learning and active, the timing and nature of this will be dependent on household routines and work commitments. We advise 'a little of everything on a daily basis' approach as this will cover and maintain the core curriculum areas and related skills.

Specific Needs

The majority of children will receive resources for their specific year group however some children will have provision for specific needs and a member of staff will contact you to explain these. Our aim is to provide resources which your child should be able to complete as independently as possible however some discussion and review with an adult may be helpful. Additional resources, advice or support can and will be sourced and provided as necessary.

Communication

Unless informed otherwise, parents are asked to continue using the usual lines of communication during periods of closure.

admin@overstone-wing.org

absence@overstone-wing.org

Tel: 01296 688799

In the event of school office closure, emails will be monitored remotely whilst whole school updates will be provided via the school website, Parentmail/email or Class Dojo.