



PensMeadowSchool

Living, Growing, Learning

Remote Learning

OCTOBER 2020

NEXT REVIEW DATE: OCTOBER 2021

Staff Responsible: Mr Michal Pawlowicz

Rationale

In the event of a school closure, the school is committed to providing continuity of education to its students and will do so through a process of remote 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 students and teachers are healthy, and able to work as normal from home. This policy does not normally apply in the event of short-term school closures (e.g. as a result of inclement weather) or a short-term student absence.

Remote learning may also be appropriate in situations when students, in agreement with the school, have a period of absence but are able to work at home, at least to some extent. This may apply in cases such as exclusion from school, or longer-term illness, assuming students are able to complete school work at home. Another instance would be if, following an infectious disease outbreak, students 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 students who are absent from school with parental permission, in contravention to school or government guidance. This may apply, for example, if parents choose to take students on holiday during term time. Similarly, this would apply if parents made the decision, without prior agreement with the school, to absent their child/young person from school 'as a precaution', against official guidance, in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease.

At the time of writing, the school has not experienced an example of an extended school closure and so this policy is under review and may be revised as necessary in light of further experience of remote learning and the circumstances around its necessity. For example, the extent to which different methods of instruction are employed is likely to be determined by the length of any school closure and the ability of both students and teachers to participate in remote learning, owing to widespread illness, for example.

Remote learning for individual students

Assuming an absence has been agreed with the school, and the student in question is healthy enough to work from home, the school will provide work for students who are unable to attend in person. If this occurs for an individual student, the collation of work and communication with the parent will be coordinated by the student's Phase Leader and class teacher.

The school has set up a Remote Learning page on Facebook that is available to every school pupil. This will provide a breadth of daily activities that parents can conduct with our pupils at home. These are not going to be class/form specific. Activities may be in a form of video learning, worksheets of access to specific internet-based software.

The school will also provide Learning Packs tailored to the needs of the pupils on a weekly basis in the event of an extended school closure. These will include specific curriculum tasks that will in turn need to be returned to the class teacher for assessment.

Assessment

Providing timely and helpful feedback is a cornerstone of good teaching and learning, and whilst this may be more challenging with remote learning, teachers will endeavour to provide regular feedback to students 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.

Teachers will assess the returned tasks in line with school's assessment policy. They will provide feedback to parents during weekly phone calls.

Pastoral care during school closure

In the event of an extended school closure the staff will attempt to contact parents on a weekly basis through telephone calls. Should this not be successful further communication will be made via ParentMail as well as SMS from Family Outreach Team.

Parents will be expected to feedback on their child's wellbeing and access to the remote learning on a weekly basis.

If the situation arises where we are unsuccessful in contacting parents the DSL and a member of the Family Outreach Team will attempt a home visit to conduct a Safe and Well Check.

Safeguarding during a school closure

In the event of a school closure, pupils, parents and teachers are reminded that the school's 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.

Links to other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Staff code of Conduct
- Behaviour Policy