



**SS Mary & John Catholic Primary School**  
*Following Christ – Improving Standards*



## **Distant Learning Policy**

**February 2024**

*“Working together with God to achieve a better future for everyone.”*

### **Introduction**

At SS. Mary and John's Catholic Primary School, you will find that Christ is at the centre of our school. In order to follow in the ways of Christ, we encourage children to use their unique, God-given gifts and talents to make our school special.

As staff, we are committed to ensuring our children are continuing to receive high-quality teaching and learning at SS. Mary and John. However, whilst learning is important, the health and well-being of our school community is at the forefront and must take priority in the current circumstances that we live in. At times, we may have to implement year group and school closure, whilst individuals and families may have to self-isolate due to illness and symptoms.

We recognise that it is vital that children continue to access learning whilst at home and we will endeavour to support their learning during this time. The Department of Education have made it clear their expectation for schools to make high quality online provision immediately available for children who are having to self-isolate or whilst they wait for a COVID-19 test. This should match the curriculum content of each day as closely as possible and is **Priority 5 of our school recovery and catch up plan.**

### **1. Aims and Objectives**

This distant learning policy aims to:

- Ensure consistency in the school's approach to distant learning.
- Distinguish the difference between the terms: Home Learning and Home Teaching.
- Set out expectations for all members of the school community with regards to remote learning.
- Provide appropriate guidelines for data protection.

## **2. Home Learning and Home Teaching**

### **2.1. Home Learning**

Home Learning is a term to be used for children who are self-isolating due to symptoms of COVID. They will be able to have access to work set on the school website, PurpleMash, White Rose Maths, Oak Academy, Oxford Owl and TT Rockstars. Work (RE/English/Maths/Wider Curriculum) for that **week** will be set in line to what is being taught in class. Any work submitted will be marked within teachers working hours and contact will be made at least once a week to check on the child's welfare and whether they can access the work.

### **2.2. Home Teaching**

Home Teaching is the term to be used in the case that a year group bubble is closed due to a positive case of COVID. See point 4 which will explain the provision available to children during this period.

## **3. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **3.1. Teachers**

In the case of a year group closure and the establishment of **Home Teaching**, teachers are responsible for:

#### Setting Work

- Setting daily, appropriate work in line with their current year group targets (linking to their Curriculum Maps). They will set work in all subjects (English (including spelling), Guided Reading, Maths, Science, RE, Thematic and PE), so that children are able to receive a broad curriculum despite being at home.
- Ensuring that children are accessing work from either the school website (see class pages), PurpleMash, TT Rockstars, or through the work packs that have been distributed to those who have no access to the internet.
- Establish a weekly timetable, so that children are able to receive daily English and Maths lessons, as well as lessons in the wider curriculum.
- Working as a year group team to ensure that the above work is planned and ready to be accessed.

#### Providing feedback on work

- When accessing resources such as PurpleMash and TT Rockstars, children will send any completed work back to the teacher to be marked. Teachers must provide children with **daily** feedback in the work that they produce, so that can see what they did well and how to improve in future tasks. **Additionally, teachers will have to mark work set in the child's Home Learning books and ensure that they are redistributed to children once completed. Teaching**

**Assistants will support the teacher with marking of PurpleMash and Home Learning books.**

- Staff (Teachers and TAs) will have access to a year group email in the event of Home Teaching, so that any work, problems or queries from children and parents can be emailed directly to the year group email account rather proceeding through enquiry.
- Teachers will regularly update the PurpleMash blog, as a continued communication tool for students to access.
- Staff will make contact with all pupils in their class every 2 weeks via telephone call when in school. Contact details can be accessed from SIMS and it is important that any contact details written down must be shredded after making the calls. All phone calls should be kept in a year group log and teachers will need to speak to the student for well-being checks and to see how they are getting on with the activities being set.

Attendance at staff meetings

- In the case of the teacher working from home, they must attend virtual meetings with the school via Zoom.

In the event of a child or family self-isolating due to symptoms (**Home Learning**), teachers are responsible for setting work for children and will mark their work following the end of a school day. In the event of a year group or whole school closure, teachers will be available between the teachers working hours. If they are unable to work for any reason during this time, then they should follow normal school procedures in reporting absences.

#### **4. Resources to access distant learning**

- 4.1. At SS. Mary and John's, in the event of **Home Teaching**, we are keen to ensure that children are able to access work from home so that high quality learning can continue. We endeavour to use a range of sources to do this. All children will receive a **Distant Learning** book in the event of a year group or whole school closure and will be told to use this during the time away from school.

**Purple Mash**

- All children will have received their online PurpleMash username and password and would have used this during weekly Homework tasks. This will be used as an additional source of communication through blogs and student's comments when submitting work.
- Teachers will set tasks daily in line of the home learning guidelines.  
**EYFS and KS1- 3 hours**  
**KS2- 4 hours**
- Children will find daily work in the 2Do section, as they log onto PurpleMash and will be able to hand this in once completed, in order to receive feedback.

- Teachers are able to upload PDFs, PowerPoints, links to YouTube videos recorded by themselves in order to set and support them with their daily work. This will enable children to download the content relevant to their learning.
- Teachers are required to update their class blog regularly, as children will be able to comment on areas of weakness and uncertainty. This is another source of communication with our students.

### **School Website**

- In the event of **Home Learning**, on year group pages, children will be able to access **weekly** learning resources (including PPs which would have been taught) that can be downloaded and completed whilst self-isolating at home.
- In the event of **Home Teaching**, on year group pages, children will be able to access **daily** learning resources (including PPs which would have been taught) that can be downloaded and placed into the Distant Learning book.
- There will also be websites to other resources for children who want to continue their learning and challenge themselves throughout the day.

### **TT Rockstars**

- All children will have received their online TT Rockstars username and password and have been encouraged to use this at home for Homework tasks.
- Teachers are able to set multiplication tables and number bonds (NumberBots) for children to complete during this time and will be able to see who is accessing the website, as well as improvements in their multiplication knowledge.

### **White Rose Maths (Home Learning)**

- Teachers will be required to set children Maths work which will be in line with the White Rose Maths long term overview. This work will be uploaded onto the school website and PurpleMash for children to access.
- For children who are unsure, White Rose Maths have provided videos for each year group that link to their current learning and can be accessed from home by following this link: <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>

### **Oak National Academy**

- To further support children with distant learning, The Oak National Academy has materials and resources to continue to support with the learning and progress of children whilst at home.

### **Work Packs**

- For families with limited resources, teachers for the year group will provide a work pack so that they can continue to access learning whilst at home.

## **5. YouTube (Remote Education)**

- 5.1. In order to support students with their learning, our school has created a YouTube account. Teachers may upload videos to support children with any new learning. Any videos will be placed onto the school website, so that they can be accessed and will be on a private setting. Children will be provided with a link to their year-group specific videos and will not be able to comment on the videos, however will be encouraged to use the year group PurpleMash blog instead. Videos will not be published to the main YouTube website, instead they will only be accessed by children of our school.

## **6. Safeguarding and Data Protection**

### **6.1. Accessing Personal Data**

- When accessing personal data, all staff members will have access to CPOMS to record any parent contact or concerns about children. This is access through a secure password. Teachers need to ensure that they log out after use.
- School laptops and iPads are the school's preferred devices to be used when accessing from home.
- All staff members will take the appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes keeping devices password protected and making sure that device is locked if inactive for a period of time.

## **7. Homework**

- Children will continue to be set weekly PurpleMash homework every Friday. The expectation is that this will be completed and handed in by Wednesday. All children will complete at least Maths, Spelling or Grammar and Reading.
- Children who cannot access Purple Mash from home will be provided with the opportunity to complete this during the school day.

## **8. Monitoring**

- This policy will be reviewed as and when updates to home learning are provided by the Government and MAC by Shannon Ryan (SLT). At every review, it will be approved by Mary Lynch (Head Teacher).