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Remote Education Policy: Covid-19

Aims

This policy is to ensure the ongoing education of St Mark’s Academy pupils under unusual circumstances. This policy will future-proof against closures that could happen at any time due to school closure from Covid-19. It also covers the ongoing education of pupils who cannot be in school as a result of Covid-19 restrictions but are able to continue with their education when the school remains fully open.

This remote education policy aims to:

- set out and explain our approach to remote education during Covid-19 to the whole school community
- ensure consistency in the approach to remote education for pupils who are not in school
- set out expectations for all members of the school community with regards to remote education
- provide appropriate guidelines for data protection.

Remote education

If one or more of the following events occur, remote education will be implemented by the School for all affected students:

- An individual student is awaiting a Covid-19 test result
- An individual student is self-isolating due to Covid-19
- A proportion of students from a class/year group/bubble are self-isolating due to Covid-19
- A whole class/year group/bubble is self-isolating due to Covid-19
- The school is only open to critical workers/vulnerable children due to Covid-19
- The school is closed due to Covid-19.

Remote education minimum standards

Anthem commits to the following minimum standards for remote education provided in the above scenarios:

- Work will be provided for all affected students and will be accessible on our pre-agreed platform(s).
- Affected students will have access to remote education which is equivalent to core teaching every day.
- Affected students will be provided opportunities for feedback and assessment on a regular basis.
- Work provided will be ambitious and in line with the in-school curriculum.
- Affected students will have the opportunity for daily contact with a member of staff.

Remote educational provision

For all students affected as above, we will provide access to a weekly timetable of remote education activities. The same provision will be provided for all affected students, whether an individual or a whole class is isolating or otherwise affected. This is to ensure equality of provision. Our remote learning offer will be shared through Microsoft Teams and Satchel (formerly Show my Homework). This timetable will link to our long-term curriculum plans and the learning those in school will or would be doing, while remaining manageable for staff to prepare on top of their usual weekly workload. To do this, we will provide the resources used in lessons alongside weekly quizzes to check students' understanding and ensure interaction and feedback. We will sometimes make use of a number of carefully selected and high-quality online materials such as quizzes from agreed platforms and carefully selected lesson videos.

We appreciate that some families won't be able to engage with the full timetable, and in this case we will highlight the core lessons students should aim to complete each day, whilst also providing stretch opportunities. Staff will endeavour to view and feedback on as much of student's work as they are able, while balancing their workload inside of school.

We commit to putting in place remote education from the first day an affected student is off school, however please note there may initially be an interim period of one or two days before the whole program and normal ongoing support is accessible and ready.

Platforms and how to access

Anthem-approved remote education platforms are Google Classrooms and Microsoft Teams. St Mark's uses MS Teams.

Parents and students can access this school's remote education offer in this way:

A Satchel One account has been created for parents to keep up to date with their child's homework progress from home.

Satchel One has assigned PINs to each parent that allows us to confirm their identity on initial login. After logging in for the first time, users will be asked to provide more memorable login details for future use. PINs are then only be used as a backup in case you forget these logins.

How to log in?

1. Got to <https://www.satchelone.com/login>
2. Enter your PIN details that you have been given in the letter provided by your school.
3. Click 'Log in'
4. Create a memorable password and enter your email address then click 'Update your details'.

We also encourage parents/carers to log in to Microsoft Teams with their children so that they can see the lessons resources and quizzes provided.

Support to enable students to access remote education

We understand that remote education during current times presents new challenges for many. We commit to the following to help support students to access remote education:

Ensuring all students complete an Anthem Remote Education Agreement prior to accessing the online learning platforms.

- Using coaching time to allow students to use IT rooms and practise using online learning platforms.
- Using IT/Computer Science lessons to upskill students in Microsoft Teams through delivering all elements of the lesson through this platform.
- Providing audio and video guides which students can access from home to support students with accessing MS Teams
- Letters and visual guides/videos sent home with instructions on how to access remote education.
- Weekly phone calls from form coaches/TAs/pastoral support staff to guide students through use of technology.
- Providing practical support with technology where possible.

Roles and responsibilities

Teachers

When providing remote education, teachers will be available between 8am and 4.30pm. If a teacher is unable to work for any reason during this time, for example due to sickness or caring for a dependent, they should report this using the normal absence procedure. [Adapt this if the procedure is different. If it's the same, you may still want to remind staff of the procedure here.]

When providing remote education, teachers are responsible for:

Setting work:

- Planning lessons for their classes and making these available to students who are working remotely within 12 hours of the lesson having been taught in school on MS Teams.
- Following the school timetable, including any revised timetables in place in the event of tiered lock downs.
- Working closely with other teachers and staff to support all students with accessing a carefully planned lesson sequences.

Providing feedback on work:

- Looking carefully at work completed by students on agreed platforms and using this to inform planning.
- Responding to quizzes or assignments completed online with praise, comments, scores or next steps.

Keeping in touch with pupils who aren't in school and their parents – cover details such as:

- Making work available to students on MS Teams and providing feedback
- Offering further support through messages on Satchel or email where needed and within working hours
- Encouraging student engagement through personalised messages/work/ phone calls where needed
- Contacting students for whom they are the 'key worker' e.g. members of their coaching group/ year group who are self-isolating (when directed by pastoral leads)
- Referring any safeguarding issues to the Designated Safeguarding Leads, and referring concerns of parental complaints to their line manager
- Following the school's reward and support systems to ensure high levels of student engagement

Attending virtual meetings with staff, parents and pupils:

- Following the usual school dress code in online meetings

- Avoiding areas with background noise, and keeping a plain background

Carrying out duties assigned by SLT who will have oversight of different staff's responsibilities, depending on whether they are in-school/ working remotely/ teaching in-school full time.

Teaching assistants

When assisting with remote education, teaching assistants will be available between 8am and 4pm.

If a teaching assistant is unable to work for any reason during this time, for example due to sickness or caring for a dependant, they should report this using the normal absence procedure.

When assisting with remote education, teaching assistants are responsible for:

- Supporting pupils with learning remotely who have been assigned to them. E.g. through:
 - Phone calls home to parents
 - Providing additional or more accessible learning material where needed
 - Checking online provision is accessible
 - Providing 1:1 or small group support sessions after school to improve MS Teams proficiency
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- Attending virtual meetings with teachers, parents and pupils:
 - Following the usual school dress code in online meetings
 - Avoiding areas with background noise, and keeping a plain background

Carrying out duties assigned by SLT who will have oversight of different staff's responsibilities depending on whether they are in-school/ working remotely/ teaching in-school full time.

If teaching assistants will also be working in school, where relevant explain who will cover the responsibilities above during this time.

Heads of Department

Alongside their teaching responsibilities, subject leads are responsible for:

- Considering whether any aspects of the subject curriculum need to change to accommodate remote education.
- Working with teachers teaching their subject remotely to make sure all work set is appropriate and consistent and in-line with school expectations.
- Working with other subject leads and senior leaders to make sure work set remotely across all subjects is appropriate and consistent, and deadlines are being set an appropriate distance away from each other.
- Monitoring the remote work set by teachers in their subject – through completing regular 'dip-tests' and providing feedback and support in department meetings.
- Alerting teachers to resources they can use to teach their subject remotely.
- Overseeing the setting and marking of weekly MS Forms homework quizzes and ensuring they are carefully designed to test students' understanding of key concepts
- Supporting staff to use the quizzes to adapt lesson and curriculum planning to teach responsively and offer further stretch and support

Senior leaders

Alongside any teaching responsibilities, senior leaders are responsible for:

- Co-ordinating the remote education approach across the school and working with Rachel Sewell to ensure provision is in place
- Monitoring the effectiveness of remote education – e.g. through regular meetings with teachers and subject leaders, reviewing work set and reaching out for feedback from pupils and parents.
- Monitoring the security of remote education systems, including data protection and safeguarding considerations.

Designated safeguarding lead

The DSL is responsible for:

- Ensuring that clear communication of concern reporting procedures has been shared with staff, students and their parents
- Acting as a point of contact for staff to report any unacceptable internet usage or practices
- Acting as a source of support, advice and expertise for all staff regarding online and digital safety
- Liaise with staff (especially pastoral support staff, school nurses, IT Technicians, Safer Schools Officer and SENCO) on matters of safety and safeguarding regarding online usage
- Provide staff with training regarding the signs of safety for online and digital usage
- Ensuring that staff, students and parents are all aware of what constitutes inappropriate, offensive and illegal material, including images, video and documents
- Deploying members of staff to follow up concerns with relevant interventions or referrals
- Respond to any concerns raised by students or their parents regarding interactions with staff members
- Ensuring that students are aware of external agencies that they can report concerns to outside of school hours
- Understands relevant data protection legislation and regulations, especially the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation
- Is alert to the specific needs and complexities of remote learning for children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers (Section 17(10) Children Act 1989: those unlikely to achieve a reasonable standard of health and development without local authority services, those whose health and development is likely to be significantly impaired without the provision of such services, or disabled children.)

IT staff

IT staff are responsible for:

- Fixing issues with systems used to set and collect work.
- Helping staff and parents with any technical issues they're experiencing.
- Reviewing the security of remote education systems and flagging any data protection breaches to the data protection officer.
- Assisting pupils and parents with accessing the internet or devices.

Pupils and parents

We expect pupils learning remotely to:

- Be contactable during the school day – although we understand that you may not always be in front of a device the entire time.
- Complete work to the deadline set by teachers.
- Seek help if you need it, from teachers or teaching assistants.
- Alert teachers if you are not able to complete work.
- When attending live lessons or conversations with school staff, to dress appropriately (no pyjamas or offensive images/wording) and to have an appropriate background (ideally a clear background with no other people in view, with no offensive imagery).
- To be kind, considerate and respectful when communicating with other students and school staff online, in line with the school's Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying policy.
- To complete the Anthem Remote Education Agreement and be aware of the Interim Online-Safety Policy for parents and pupils.

We expect parents with children learning remotely to:

- Make the school aware if your child is sick or otherwise can't complete work.
- Seek help from the school if you need it.
- Be respectful when making any complaints or concerns known to staff.
- Be aware of the Interim Online-Safety Policy for parents and pupils.

Anthem

The Trust is responsible for:

- Working across all schools in the Trust to develop a remote education strategy, as set out within this remote education policy.
- Setting up CPD for remote education.
- Enabling peer support on remote education between schools across the Trust, for example via the PLN network.
- Monitoring the school's approach to providing remote education to ensure education remains as high quality as possible.
- Ensuring that staff are certain that remote education systems are appropriately secure, for both data protection and safeguarding reasons.

Live teaching

There is no expectation on schools to deliver Live teaching. Online lessons may be recorded, or they may be delivered live. Live teaching will only be delivered if the following criteria can be met:

- It has to be safe
- It has to be inclusive
- It has to be the most effective approach to the learning

Live teaching will only be considered once basic access to lesson resources for all relevant students is in place. Where lessons are delivered live, the Live Teaching Protocol will be followed.

Children with SEND and vulnerable students

It is primarily the role of the SENCo Muniza Khan to ensure all SEND needs are supported effectively and that appropriate resources are allocated and available to meet pupil need. Nicola Van Zyl has oversight of our provision for vulnerable students. However, all teachers and teaching assistants have a duty to support children with SEND and those who are vulnerable. Teachers should ensure that work is differentiated as required for all learners when setting online tasks.

To support children with SEND and or learning difficulties with remote education, the SENCo will:

- know which students they are expected to support
- have a good knowledge of ‘their’ student need, the barriers they may face and how best to support
- share access to Pupil Passports, SEND or EHCP plans to ensure successful strategies and interventions are used to support
- ensure that statutory EHCP Part F school provisions are covered.

Support will include:

- Deploying Teaching Assistants effectively
- Ensuring pupils can access all necessary learning platforms and know what is expected of them.
- Reviewing T&L resources from subject staff on TEAMS to ensure engagement is possible.
- Checking the work to be completed each day and any deadlines and sharing this with pupils.
- Ensuring EHCP Risk Assessments are known, adhered to.
- Delivering interventions and teaching individuals as directed by the SENCo.
- Researching and resourcing any additional resources necessary for personalised learning.
- Liaison with outside agencies as appropriate.
- Attending virtual meetings with teachers, parents and pupils as necessary and directed by SENCo.
- If teaching assistants will also be working in school, where relevant explain who will cover the responsibilities above during this time.
- Ensuring class/subject resources and lessons on Teams are accessible and appropriately differentiated as part of Responsive Teaching by all staff on all occasions.
- Support and contact from class/subject staff on a personalised basis as appropriate.

All SEND and vulnerable students should continue to receive allocated outside agency support remotely where appropriate and possible (provided by agencies) and time will need to be allocated to co-ordinating this work also.

Who to contact

If you have any questions or concerns about remote education, please contact the following individuals:

Here are some suggested issues and the most likely points of contact, but adapt and add to this as needed:

- Issues in setting work – talk to the relevant subject lead or SENCo
- Issues with behaviour – talk to the relevant Progress Leader
- Issues with IT – talk to IT staff
- Issues with their own workload or wellbeing – talk to their line manager
- Concerns about data protection – talk to the school data protection lead
- Concerns about safeguarding – talk to the DSL

- If parents and/or students require support with gaining digital access at home, please speak to Rachel Sewell rsewell@stmarksacademy.anthemtrust.uk

If any pupil has worries or concerns during this period of remote teaching then they should contact [Aimee Gallagher (St Marks) AGallagher@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk at the school or, alternatively, they can contact Childline via the following website: <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/contacting-childline/>

Communication between staff and pupils/families must be through the authorised school systems above and not through email, personal social media accounts, nor personal phones It should follow the usual rules outlined in the Staff Code of Conduct, Home School Agreement, Remote Education Agreement, Online Safety Policy and Acceptable Use Agreements.

Safeguarding and remote education

With the increased use of digital technologies that comes with remote education, safeguarding implications need careful consideration. Parents are advised to spend time speaking with their child(ren) about online safety and reminding them of the importance of reporting to an adult anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online. Please refer to the Interim Online Safety Policy for further information.

While we will be doing our best to ensure links shared are appropriate, there may be tailored advertising which displays differently in your household or other changes beyond our control. If parents or students have any concerns over any online content related to the school or Trust they can contact the school or the Trust via enquiries@anthemtrust.uk.

If parents have any safeguarding concerns that need discussing, they should contact Aimee Gallagher AGallagher@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk. Staff should continue to be vigilant at this time and follow our usual Online Safety for Staff and Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and procedures.

Data protection

Accessing personal data

When accessing personal data for remote education purposes, all staff members will:

Explain:

- How they can access the data, such as on a secure cloud service or a server in your IT network.
- Which devices they should use to access the data – if you've provided devices, such as laptops, make staff use these rather than their own personal devices.
- Follow the Acceptable Use Agreement and the Interim Online Safety policy for staff.

Processing personal data

Staff members may need to collect and/or share personal data such as [insert examples, such as email addresses] as part of the remote education system. As long as this processing is necessary for the school's official functions, individuals won't need to give permission for this to happen.

Staff will only collect and/or share as little personal data as possible online.

Keeping devices secure

All staff members are expected to take appropriate steps to ensure their devices remain secure. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Keeping the device password-protected – strong passwords are at least eight characters, with a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters (e.g. asterisk or currency symbol).
- Ensuring the hard drive is encrypted – this means if the device is lost or stolen, no one can access the files stored on the hard drive by attaching it to a new device.
- Making sure the device locks if left inactive for a period of time.
- Not sharing the device among family or friends.
- Installing antivirus and anti-spyware software.
- Keeping operating systems up to date – always install the latest updates.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every year by the Trust. The Education Executive Team will monitor the implementation of this policy.

Links with other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour Policy and Covid-19 Addendum
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices
- Home-School Agreement
- E-Safety Policy
- SEND Policy
- Acceptable Use Agreement – all staff and students using school digital technologies must have signed and must follow this agreement
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Interim Online Safety Policy for staff
- Interim Online Safety Policy for parents and pupils
- Anthem Remote Education Agreement