

Finstall First School

Pupil Remote Learning Policy

This policy has been updated to reflect DfE guidance on providing remote education in school. The update guidance can be found [here](#).

Date of review: 17th October 2024

Last updated: 1st October 2024

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Statement of intent

At **Finstall First School**, 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.

Circumstances where it might not be possible for pupils to receive in person education fit into 2 broad categories:

- school closures or restrictions on attendance, where school access for pupils is restricted
- individual cases where a pupil is unable to attend school but is able to learn. These circumstances should only involve a short-term absence and might include pupils: recovering from short- term infectious illnesses; preparing for or recovering from some operations; recovering from injuries where attendance might inhibit recovery

Signed by:

Matthew Mason

Headteacher

Date: 01/10/21

Martin Evans

Chair of
governors

Date: 14/06/2021

1. Legal framework

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

- Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2004
- The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013
- Data Protection Act 2018

1.2. This policy has due regard to national guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2021) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2019) 'School attendance'
- DfE (2017) 'Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years'
- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety: responsibilities and duties for schools'
- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety for school children'
- DfE (2016) 'Children missing education'
- **[New]** DfE (2020) 'Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19)'

1.3. This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- **Remote Education Offer**
- **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**
- **Policy on GDPR**
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy**
- **Whole School Behaviour Policy**
- **Accessibility Policy**
- **Marking and Feedback Policy**
- **Curriculum Policy**
- **Assessment Policy**
- **E-Safety Policy**
- **Health and Safety Policy**
- **ICT Acceptable Use Policy**
- **Staff Code of Conduct**
- **E-Security Policy**

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1. The **governing board** is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the school has robust risk management procedures in place. Ensuring that the school has a business continuity plan in place, where required.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the school's remote learning arrangements.

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.
- Overseeing that the school has the resources necessary to action the procedures in this policy.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of this policy on an **a regular** basis and communicating any changes to staff, parents, and pupils, particularly during periods where significant periods of remote learning are imminent or taking place.
- Arranging any additional training staff may require to support pupils during the period of remote learning.
- Conducting reviews on a **regular** basis of the remote learning arrangements to ensure pupils' education does not suffer.

2.3. The **health and safety officer** 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.

2.4. The **DPO** is responsible for:

- Overseeing that all school-owned electronic devices used for remote learning have adequate anti-virus software and malware protection.
- Ensuring all staff, parents, and pupils are aware of the data protection principles outlined in the GDPR.
- Ensuring that all computer programs used for remote learning are compliant with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

- Overseeing that any ICT equipment used for remote learning is resilient and can efficiently recover lost data.

2.5. The **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 alternate 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 individuals to ensure vulnerable pupils receive the support required during the period of remote working
- Ensuring all safeguarding incidents are adequately recorded and reported.

2.6. The **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 alternate arrangements for pupils with EHC plans and IHPs.
- 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.

2.7. The **DHT** 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.

2.8. 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.

- 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.
- Working with the **SENCO** to ensure that the equipment and technology used for learning remotely is accessible to all pupils and staff.

2.9. 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 **headteacher**.
- 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.

2.10. 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 **Home School Agreement** at all times.

2.11. 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 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 **Whole School Behaviour 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
 - Online learning portals – “Seesaw”
 - Educational websites
 - Reading tasks
 - Live webinars
 - Pre-recorded video or audio lessons
- 3.2. Teachers will review the DfE’s list of [online education resources](#) and utilise these tools as necessary, in addition to existing resources. This could also include materials recorded from other sources such as Oak National Academy.
- 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 required to maintain the upkeep of any equipment they use to access remote learning resources.
- 3.9. The arrangements for any ‘live’ classes, e.g. webinars, will be communicated via **email** no later than **one day** before the allotted time and kept to a reasonable length of no more than **one hour** per session.

- 3.10. The **ICT technicians** are not responsible for providing technical support for equipment that is not owned by the school.

Food provision

- 3.11. 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.
- 3.12. Where applicable, the school may provide the following provision for pupils who receive FSM:
- Providing vouchers / hampers to families

Costs and expenses

- 3.13. The school will not contribute to any household expenses incurred while pupils learn remotely, e.g. heating, lighting, or council tax.
- 3.14. The school will not reimburse any costs for travel between pupils' homes and the school premises.
- 3.15. The school will not reimburse any costs for childcare.

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 permitted 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 **SLT**, in collaboration with the **SENCO**.
- 4.6. Pupils not using devices or software as intended will be disciplined in line with the **Whole School Behaviour Policy** and ultimately will have the ability to access remote learning removed.
- 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. The school will communicate to parents via email about any precautionary measures that need to be put in place if their child is learning remotely using their own/family-owned equipment and technology, e.g. ensuring that their internet connection is secure.
- 4.10. During the period of remote learning, the school will maintain regular contact with parents to:
- Reinforce the importance of children staying safe online.
 - Ensure parents are aware of what their children are being asked to do, e.g. sites they have been asked to use and staff they will interact with.
 - 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.
- 4.11. 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**, which has been updated to include safeguarding procedures in relation to remote working.

- 5.2. The **DSL** and **headteacher** will identify 'vulnerable' pupils (pupils who are deemed to be vulnerable or are at risk of harm) via risk assessment prior to the period of remote learning.
- 5.3. The **DSL** will arrange for regular contact to be made with vulnerable pupils, prior to the period of remote learning.
- 5.4. Phone calls made to vulnerable pupils will be made using school phones where possible.
- 5.5. The **DSL** will arrange for regular contact with vulnerable pupils **once** per **week** at minimum, with additional contact, including home visits, arranged where required.
- 5.6. All contact with vulnerable pupils will be recorded on paper and suitably stored in line with the Safeguarding Policy.
- 5.7. The **DSL** will keep in contact with vulnerable pupils' social workers or other care professionals during the period of remote working, as required.
- 5.8. All home visits **must**:
 - Have at least **one** suitably trained individual present.
 - Be undertaken by no fewer than **two** members of staff.
 - Be suitably recorded on paper and the records stored so that the **DSL** has access to them.
 - Actively involve the pupil.
- 5.9. 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.
- 5.10. The **DSL** will meet (in person or remotely) with the relevant members of staff **once** per **week** to discuss new and current safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable pupils learning remotely.
- 5.11. All members of staff will report any safeguarding concerns to the **DSL** immediately.
- 5.12. 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.

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 collected prior to the period of remote learning.
- 6.6. All contact details will be stored in line with the **Data Protection Policy**.
- 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.

7. Marking and feedback

- 7.1. All schoolwork set through remote learning must be:
 - Complete when returned to the relevant member of teaching staff where required.
 - Returned before the deadline set by the relevant member of teaching staff.
 - Completed to the best of the pupil's ability.
 - The pupil's own work.
 - Unless otherwise stated work will not be marked by the teacher or feedback provided.
- 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 or phone** if their child is not completing their schoolwork or their standard of work has noticeably decreased.
- 7.4. 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. SEND provision

- 8.1. The school will put in place an appropriate curriculum and content to support those with SEND who are under a period of remote learning.

- 8.2. Where a child usually requires adult support, the school will work collaboratively with families to and put arrangements in place to ensure they can access remote learning successfully.
- 8.3. If a pupil has an education, health and care plan, the school must work with the local authority to ensure all the relevant duties under the 2014 Act continue to be met.
- 8.4. The SENCO will continue to support children and families as outlined in the roles and responsibilities of this policy.

9. Health and safety

- 9.1. This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the school's **Health and Safety Policy**.
- 9.2. 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.
- 9.3. If using electronic devices during remote learning, pupils will be encouraged to take a **five minute** screen break every **two hours**.
- 9.4. 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.
- 9.5. 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.

10. School day and absence

- 10.1. Pupils will be present for remote learning at the start of the agreed sessions each week.
- 10.2. Pupils who are unwell are not expected to be present for remote working until they are well enough to do so.

11. Communication

- 11.1. The school will ensure adequate channels of communication are arranged in the event of an emergency.
- 11.2. The school will communicate with parents via **email** and the **school website** about remote learning arrangements as soon as possible.
- 11.3. The **headteacher** will communicate with staff as soon as possible via **email** about any remote learning arrangements.

- 11.4. Members of staff involved in remote teaching will ensure they have a working mobile device that is available to take phone calls during their agreed working hours.
- 11.5. 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.
- 11.6. Members of staff will have contact with their line manager **once** per **week**.
- 11.7. As much as possible, all non-written communication with pupils and their parents will take place within the school hours.
- 11.8. Pupils will have verbal contact with a member of teaching staff at least once every 3 weeks, or more often if they may be more vulnerable.
- 11.9. Parents and pupils will inform the relevant member of staff as soon as possible if schoolwork cannot be completed.
- 11.10. Issues with remote learning or data protection will be communicated to the **pupils' teacher** as soon as possible so they can investigate and resolve the issue.
- 11.11. The **pupils' teacher** will keep parents and pupils informed of any changes to the remote learning arrangements or the schoolwork set.
- 11.12. The **headteacher** will review the effectiveness of communication on a **regular** basis and ensure measures are put in place to address gaps or weaknesses in communication.

12. Monitoring and review

- 12.1. This policy will be reviewed on a **bi-annual** basis by the **headteacher**, unless a period of remote learning is imminent and likely and the policy needs to be reviewed sooner.
- 12.2. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff and other stakeholders.
- 12.3. The next scheduled review date for this policy is **October 2026**.