

Remote Teaching and Learning Policy

Ballyfacey N.S.

18257N

Introduction:

The aim of this policy is to provide the necessary guidelines to pupils, parents/guardians and staff in relation to the use of ICT during times of remote teaching and learning. This relates to pupil learning taking place in a location other than that child's school, and where it is not possible for a class teacher to provide educational instruction to the class within the same location.

This policy details best practice for remote learning and the use of online technologies during normal school term and has been formulated out of necessity due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This policy is intended to provide guidance for the use of remote teaching and learning should the need arise due to an extended school closure during any school term.

This policy shall operate in tandem with the school's Internet Acceptable Usage Policy, providing important addition clarity relating to the area of learning from a digital platform when necessary.

This policy should be read along with our school's Code of Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying (including Cyber Bullying) Policy.

Schools have an obligation to look after the welfare of learners in their school. This policy, therefore, seeks to ensure that remote learning is safe for all student learners under the school's Child Safeguarding Statement measures whilst also ensuring that pupil data is also protected under GDPR legislation.

The school shall endeavour to allow learning to take place in an environment that is respectful and fair and meets its statutory duties.

This Policy has been drafted in accordance with the provisions of the Department of Education and relevant sections of:

1. The Education Act (1998)
2. Education (Welfare) Act (2000)
3. Equal Status Act (2000)
4. Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act (2004)
5. Disability Act (2005)
6. Children First 2017

7. GDPR Legislation
8. Dept. of Education Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools
9. NEWB Guidelines for developing a Code of Behaviour (2008)

Context

As continual advances are made in the area of ICT, these developments offer a variety of opportunities for both teachers and learners. Learning experiences can now be delivered remotely and that greater access to information on the internet affords the opportunities for real learning to take place under the watchful and professional guidance of the teacher.

However, whether a child is being educated remotely or by means of a traditional classroom environment, it is very important that all partners are aware that once a learning exchange takes place between a student and teacher, whether at home or school, the same statutory rules apply i.e. the school's Code of Behaviour and all of the school's policies.

This Policy has been formulated during the Covid-19 Pandemic, when remote teaching and learning became a necessity and a similar directive may be required again in the school community, without prior knowledge and preparation in the future. Ballyfacey NS strives to make it very clear to all of our partners that the values that are instilled in all of our policies remain, no matter how we change our teaching and learning methodologies or the location of that teaching and learning. This includes remote learning or when a child is being taught in an environment that is not within the school building and the teacher is working remotely and is not present with the student(s).

Guidelines on appropriate use of Online Platforms for engaging in remote teaching and learning:

Ballyfacey N.S. will use Seesaw as the chosen online platform for periods of remote teaching and learning. Consent will be required from all families and then pupils will be provided with individual login details through emails to parents/guardians. If problems arise with Seesaw parents/children should contact their class teacher through Seesaw where possible or through email by the parent. Email interaction between staff and pupils will not be deemed appropriate. Class teachers can then work to rectify the issue and may make contact with the Principal for assistance where necessary. Seesaw is a very user-friendly platform for remote teaching and learning.

Teachers when working remotely will only communicate online during normal working hours and will endeavour not to communicate with students outside of these hours. Likewise, there is never an expectation on the teacher to have to correct or comment on work sent on through Seesaw outside of normal school hours. Whilst it might suit teachers, pupils or parents/guardians to communicate outside of normal working hours, it is essential that everyone agrees that responses or actions outside of normal working hours are not required. We would urge all members of the school community to turn off notifications outside of their learning/working hours.

In so far as possible, provision for SEN students, will be made when using Remote Learning methodologies.

No matter what time a pupil and/ or teacher are on Seesaw i.e. whether the teacher is online or not- the moment a pupil logs onto Seesaw they must abide by the school rules and these rules will be implemented if and when necessary.

Any material created by a class teacher for Seesaw will remain the property of the teacher and pupils do not have permission to share this property with others unless given permission to do so. Recordings should not be made of any online lesson unless with explicit permission from the teacher. In this instance, it is of utmost importance that any such recordings are not shared.

Teachers (with permission from the Principal) may choose to conduct live classes particularly in the area of SEN provision. Zoom - using the relevant consents - will be used to host these meetings. To avoid the situation where a pupil has to be asked to disable their webcams and/or muting their audio, we are using a high trust model. Teachers will trust students to behave appropriately online, as they would in their real classroom.

Pupils' attire must be suitable and pupils are asked not to partake in any lesson while in their bedrooms. We would encourage all parents to be in the room with their child while they are on a Zoom call with a teacher.

Social media sites will not be used in any way for the conducting of remote teaching and learning.

Any behaviour or language which would be inappropriate within the normal school environment also applies online and after established school times. The consequences for such behaviour will be the same as if the pupil was in school as they are carrying out school work, on a learning platform set up by their school using a school log-in, which has been directed by school personnel.

The criteria for mandated Child Safeguarding reporting remain the same, as if the child was being taught in-person at school.

All provisions relating to the child's data remains the same under GDPR procedures and guidelines.

As would be the case regarding all behavioural issues relating to the school's Code of Behaviour, if a pupil acts in a fashion that is contrary to the Code of Ballyfacey N.S. then parents will be contacted.

Ratification and Implementation

This policy was last reviewed by the Board in December 2021 and is due to be reviewed in the school year 2023/24 or sooner if the need arises.

Signed: James O'Leary

Chairperson

Date: 21/12/21

Signed: Tamara O'Gorman

Principal

Date: 21/12/21