

Bishop Justus Church of England School

Policy Title:	Remote Education
Leadership Responsibility:	Kate Parker
Review Body:	Headteacher
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Contents

- Statement of intent
- Legal framework
- Roles and responsibilities
- Resources
- Online safety
- Safeguarding
- Data protection
- Marking and feedback
- Health and safety
- School day and absence
- Communication
- Monitoring and review

Statement of intent

At the Aquinas Church of England Education Trust (the Trust) and Bishop Justus Church of England School (the academy), we understand the need to continually deliver high quality education including during periods of remote working – whether for an individual pupil or a number of pupils. We recognise the importance of maintaining high expectations in all areas of school life and ensuring 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 requirements for remote learning because of the COVID19 pandemic and 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 all pupils have access to high quality learning resources;
- Protect pupils from the risks associated with using devices connected to the internet;
- Ensure colleague, parent, and pupil data remains secure and is not lost or misused;
- Ensure robust safeguarding measures continue to be in effect during remote education;
- 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 education.

Legal framework

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.
- Coronavirus Act 2020 Provision of Remote Education (England) Temporary Continuity Direction.

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

- DfE (2020) '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';
- DfE (2020) 'Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus (COVID19)';
- DfE (2020) 'Adapting teaching practice for remote education';
- DfE (2020) 'Guidance for full opening: schools';
- DfE (2020) 'Get help with technology during coronavirus (COVID19)';
- DfE (2020) 'Get laptops and tablets for children who cannot attend school due to coronavirus (COVID19)';
- DfE (2020) 'Laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers provided during coronavirus (COVID19)'.

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Accessibility;
- Attendance;
- Behaviour Management;
- Child Protection;
- Curriculum
- eSafety;
- Health and Safety Procedures;
- ICT Acceptable Use;
- Loan of Equipment;
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND);
- Trust Data Protection;
- Trust Employee Code of Conduct (Handbook);
- Trust Health and Safety
- Trust Literacy;
- Trust Numeracy;

- Trust Teaching, Learning and Assessment;
- Trust Safeguarding;
- Trust Special Educational Needs.

Principles for the Provision of Remote Learning

- The academies will teach their planned and published curriculum making the necessary adjustments for remote learning so that knowledge and skill are built on incrementally.
- Content will be delivered through modes that are accessible to all pupils through the provision of high-quality teaching and resources.
- The programme of teaching will be equivalent to the core teaching time delivered whilst at school, where possible.
- Pupils will be provided with clear explanations and scope for answering questions and obtaining clarity of the topic delivered.
- The academies will consider the age, stage of development and special education needs and disability (SEND) when setting expectations for pupils.
- Pupils are set meaningful and ambitious work on a variety of subjects each day.
- Assessment of pupils' progress will be regularly undertaken using suitable tasks. Following assessment, teachers will differentiate and adjust pace and difficulty to suit individual needs and make reasonable adjustments for those pupils with identified SEND following collaboration with families.
- Teachers will provide clear details of when homework will be set and marked.
- Pupils and parents will be made aware of how progress will be reviewed and ascertained.

Roles and responsibilities

The **Trust** is responsible for:

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

The **Headteacher** is responsible for:

- Ensuring colleagues, parents and pupils always adhere to the relevant policies;
- Ensuring arrangements are in place for identifying, evaluating, and managing the risks associated with remote education;
- Ensuring arrangements are in place for monitoring incidents associated with remote education;
- Ensuring the academy has the resources necessary to action the procedures in this policy;
- Reviewing the effectiveness of this policy on an annual basis and communicating any changes to colleagues, parents, and pupils;
- Arranging any additional training colleagues may require to support pupils during the period of remote education;
- When remote education is in place, conducting **weekly** reviews monitoring the impact of arrangements of the quality of education.

The **Designated Safeguarding Lead** is responsible for:

- Attending and arranging, where necessary, any safeguarding meetings that occur during the period of remote education;
- Liaising with the **IT Network Manager/Support** to ensure all technology used for remote education is suitable for its purpose and will protect pupils online;
- Identifying vulnerable pupils who may be at risk if they are learning remotely and identifying, through liaison with social workers if appropriate, on the most appropriate way of keeping in touch with them;
- Ensuring 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;
- Ensuring pupils identified as being at risk are provided with necessary information and instruction, as required;
- Liaising with relevant individuals to ensure vulnerable pupils receive the support required during the period of remote working including the ability to access the remote provision;
- Ensuring all safeguarding incidents are adequately recorded and reported.

The **SENCO** is responsible for:

- Ensuring the academy uses its best endeavours to secure the special educational provision required for pupils with SEND remains in place.
- Liaising with the **IT Network Manager/Support** to ensure any technology used for remote education is accessible to all pupils and reasonable adjustments are made where required in collaboration with families;
- Ensuring pupils with EHC plans continue to have their needs met while learning remotely, and liaising with the **Headteacher**, the local authority and other organisations to make any alternate arrangements for pupils with EHC plans and IHPs;
- Identifying the level of support or intervention required while pupils with SEND learn remotely, adjusting their personal education plans where appropriate;
- Ensuring the provision put in place for pupils with SEND is monitored for effectiveness throughout the period of remote education.

The **Business Manager/Headteacher** is responsible for:

- Arranging the procurement of any equipment or technology required for colleagues to teach remotely and for pupils to learn from home;
- Ensuring value for money when arranging the procurement of equipment or technology;
- Ensuring that any technology loaned to pupils is pursuant to a suitable loan agreement;
- Ensuring the academy has adequate insurance to cover all remote working arrangements;
- Ensuring 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 education;

- Managing the effectiveness of health and safety measures through a robust system of reporting, investigating, and recording incidents.

The **IT Network Manager/Support** is responsible for:

- Ensuring all school-owned electronic devices used for remote education have adequate anti-virus software and malware protection;
- Ensuring any IT equipment used for remote education is resilient and can efficiently recover lost data;
- Ensuring any programs or networks used for remote education can effectively support many users at one time, where required, e.g. undertaking 'stress' testing;
- Working with the **SENCO** to ensure the equipment and technology used for learning remotely is accessible to all pupils and colleagues;
- Ensuring all computer programs used for remote education are compliant with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 through liaison with the Data Protection Officer.

The Trust **Data Protection Officer** is responsible for:

- Ensuring all colleagues, parents, and pupils are aware of the data protection principles outlined in the GDPR.

Colleagues are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy always during periods of remote education;
- Reporting any health and safety incidents to the **Business Manager/ Headteacher** and asking for guidance as appropriate;
- Reporting any safeguarding incidents to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead** 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 education, to the **Headteacher**;
- Reporting any defects on school-owned equipment used for remote education to the **IT Network Manager/Support**;
- Adhering to the Employee Code of Conduct (Handbook) always.

Parents are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy during periods of remote education;
- Ensuring their child is available to learn remotely during the typical school day (pupils who are unwell are not expected to be present for remote education until they are well enough to do so);
- Ensuring their child has access to remote education material during the typical school day;
- Ensuring their child completes schoolwork on time and to the best of their ability;
- Reporting any technical issues to the academy as soon as possible;
- Ensuring their child uses the equipment and technology for remote education as intended.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Adhering to this policy during periods of remote education;
- Ensuring they are available to learn remotely during the typical school day;
- Ensuring 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 education material and notifying a responsible adult if they do not have access;
- Ensuring they use any equipment and technology for remote education as intended;
- Adhering to the **Behaviour Management Policy** always.

Resources

Remote Education: Learning materials

The academy utilises a range of different teaching methods during remote education to deliver the school's curriculum and to help explain concepts and address misconceptions easily. The academy may make use of a variety of high quality online and offline resources and printed resources including:

- Microsoft Teams, Show my Homework and Email;
- Current online learning portals;
- Educational websites;
- Pre-recorded video or audio resources;
- Work booklets and exam papers;
- Reading tasks.

Teachers will select online tools that will be consistently used across the school to allow interaction, assessment and feedback. They will review the programmes chosen for online learning for the accessibility features available, e.g. voice-to-text conversion, to support pupils with SEND. Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure all pupils have access to the resources needed for effective remote education.

Lesson plans will be adapted to ensure the curriculum remains fully accessible and inclusive during the period of remote education.

The academy will review the resources pupils have access to and adapt learning to account for the needs of pupils by using a range of different formats where possible, e.g. providing work on PDFs which can be viewed on a mobile device.

Any work packs made for pupils who do not have access to a laptop or tablet can be **collected from school**.

Teachers will liaise with the **SENCO** and other relevant colleagues to ensure all pupils remain fully supported for the period of remote education.

The **SENCO** will arrange additional support for pupils with SEND which will be unique to the individual's needs, e.g. via weekly phone calls.

Any issues with remote education resources will be reported as soon as possible to the relevant colleague e.g. **Curriculum Leader, SENCO**.

Pupils will be required to use their own or family-owned equipment to access remote education unless the academy agrees to provide or loan equipment, e.g. laptops.

For pupils who cannot access digital devices at home, the academy will, where possible, apply for technology support through their Local Authority or Trust.

Families are required to maintain any loaned equipment in line with the **Loan of Equipment Policy**.

Teachers will oversee academic progression for the period of remote education and will mark and provide feedback in line with this policy.

The **IT Network Manager/Support** is not responsible for providing technical support for equipment not owned by the academy.

Remote Support: Food

Where applicable, the academy may provide the following provision for pupils who receive benefit-related free school meals (FSM):

- Making food parcels available for delivery or collection;
- Providing vouchers to families.

The academy will signpost families towards additional support for ensuring their children continue to receive the food they need, e.g. food banks.

Costs and expenses

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

If a pupil is provided with school-owned equipment, the pupil and their parent must agree to adhere to the **Loan of Equipment Policy** prior to commencing remote education.

Online safety

This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the academy's **eSafety Policy**.

Where possible, all interactions should be 'public'. In the case of any video communication, all colleagues and pupils 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;
- Always remain aware that they are visible.

In the case of any audio communication, all colleagues and pupils 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;
- Always remain aware that they can be heard.

The academy will consider whether one-to-one sessions are appropriate in some circumstances, e.g. to provide support for pupils with SEND, where one-to-one sessions already exist e.g. peripatetic music. This will be decided and approved by the **Headteacher**.

Pupils not maintaining the standard of behaviour expected in school will be subject to the **Behaviour Management Policy**.

Where possible, the academy will consult with parents prior to the period of remote education about what methods of delivery are most suitable – additional support or alternate arrangements will be made where necessary. If this is not possible, parental surveys will take place after the period of remote education.

The academy will ensure all school-owned equipment and technology used for remote education 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.

The academy will communicate to parents about any precautionary measures that need to be put in place if their child is learning remotely using their own or family-owned equipment and technology, e.g. ensuring their internet connection is secure.

During the period of remote education, the academy 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 colleagues 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.

The academy will not be responsible for providing access to the internet off the academy premises and will not be responsible for providing online safety software, e.g. anti-virus software, on devices not owned by the academy.

Safeguarding

This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the academy's **Child Protection Policy**, which has been updated to include safeguarding procedures in relation to remote education.

The **Designated Safeguarding Lead** 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 education.

The **Designated Safeguarding Lead** will arrange for regular contact to be made with vulnerable pupils, prior to the period of remote education, where possible.

The **Designated Safeguarding Lead** will arrange for regular contact with vulnerable pupils **once per week at minimum**, with additional contact, including home visits, arranged where required.

Calls to the families of vulnerable pupils should be made using school telephones, where possible. All contact with vulnerable pupils will be recorded on [*insert details of the school's safeguarding recording system*] and suitably stored.

The **Designated Safeguarding Lead** will keep in contact with vulnerable pupils' social workers or other care professionals during the period of remote education, as required.

All home visits must be made in line with the academy's procedures for home visits.

Vulnerable pupils will be provided with a means of contacting the **Designated Safeguarding Lead**, their deputy, or any other relevant colleague – this arrangement will be set up by the **Designated Safeguarding Lead** prior to the period of remote education.

The **Designated Safeguarding Lead** will communicate with the colleagues no less than **once per fortnight** to discuss new and current safeguarding arrangements for vulnerable pupils.

Colleagues will report any safeguarding concerns to the **Designated Safeguarding Lead** immediately in accordance with the procedures details in the Child Protection Policy.

Pupils and their parents will be encouraged to contact the **Designated Safeguarding Lead** if they wish to report safeguarding concerns, e.g. regarding harmful or upsetting content or incidents of online bullying.

Data protection

This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the Trust's **Data Protection Policy**.

Colleagues will be responsible for adhering to the GDPR when teaching remotely and will always ensure the confidentiality and integrity of their devices.

Sensitive data will only be transferred between devices if it is necessary to do so for remote education.

Any data transferred between devices will be suitably encrypted or have other data protection measures in place so if the data is lost, stolen or subject to unauthorised access, it remains safe until recovered.

Parents' and pupils' up-to-date contact details will be collected prior to the period of remote education. All contact details will be stored in line with the **Data Protection Policy**.

The academy will not permit paper copies of contact details to be taken off-site.

Pupils **must not** let friends or relatives use school-owned equipment containing personal data.

Any breach of confidentiality will be dealt with in accordance with the **Data Protection Policy**.

Marking and feedback

All schoolwork completed through remote education must be:

- Finished when returned to the relevant teacher;
- Returned on or before the deadline set by the relevant teacher;
- Completed to the best of the pupil's ability;
- The pupil's own work;
- Marked in line with the **Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy**;
- Returned to the pupil, once marked, by an agreed date.

Pupils are accountable for the completion of their own schoolwork – teachers will contact parents if their child is not engaging with remote education, not completing their schoolwork or their standard of work has noticeably decreased.

Teachers will monitor the academic progress of pupils with and without access to the online learning resources and discuss additional support or provision with the **Headteacher** as soon as possible.

Teachers will monitor the academic progress of pupils with SEND and discuss additional support or provision with the **SENCO** as soon as possible.

The academy accepts a variety of formative assessment and feedback methods, e.g. through quizzes and other digital tools from teachers, and will support them with implementing these measures for remote education where possible.

Health and safety

This section of the policy will be enacted in conjunction with the academy's **Health and Safety Procedures**.

Teachers and **IT Network Manager/Support** will ensure pupils are shown how to use the necessary technology safely and correctly prior to the period of remote education, where possible.

If using electronic devices during remote education, pupils are encouraged to take a **five-minute** screen break every **two hours**. Screen break frequency should be adjusted to **five minutes** every **hour** for younger pupils or pupils with medical conditions who require more frequent screen breaks.

If any incidents or 'near-misses' occur in a pupil's home, they or their parents are required to report these to the **Designate Safeguarding Lead** or other relevant colleague immediately so appropriate action can be taken.

Communication

The academy will ensure adequate channels of communication are arranged in the event of an emergency.

The academy will communicate with parents via **email (letter in specific cases) and the academy website** about remote education arrangements, as soon as possible.

The **Headteacher** will communicate with colleagues as soon as possible via **email** about any remote education arrangements.

Colleagues involved in remote education will ensure they have a working device that is available to receive emails or take phone calls during their agreed working hours.

The academy understands 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 typical school hours.**

Colleagues will have contact with their line manager no less than **once per week.**

In the course of the delivery of remote learning and in the setting, completion and submission of schoolwork, young people should have daily contact with their teachers. In addition, families may have contact with a teacher, tutor or family liaison officer for a pastoral discussion no less than **once per fortnight** which will include a conversation with the pupil.

Parents and pupils will inform the relevant teacher as soon as possible if schoolwork cannot be completed. Issues with remote education or data protection should be communicated to the teacher as soon as possible so they can investigate and resolve the issue.

The **teacher** will keep parents and pupils informed of any changes to the remote education arrangements or the schoolwork set.

The **Headteacher** will review the effectiveness of communication on a **weekly** basis and ensure measures are put in place to address gaps or weaknesses in communication.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the **Headteacher**.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all colleagues and other stakeholders.