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Remote Teaching and Learning Plan for St Brigid's J.N.S. National School

Introduction

In response to this time of uncertainty regarding school closures, we have formulated this policy to outline how the school will maintain the link between school and home. In the event of another whole or partial school closure, we aim to continue to communicate with our pupils through various means.

We recognise that online safety is of huge importance and the aim of this document is to help to protect both school staff and pupils, while teaching and learning online.

This policy does not set out to replace our Acceptable Usage Policy. Rather, it is proposed as an important addition to the area of learning from a digital platform. The policy presented here should be read also in tandem with our school's Code of Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy.

The primary obligation of all schools is to the welfare of the learners in their school. This policy, therefore, seeks to ensure that remote learning is safe for all student learners and that personal and sensitive data is also protected under GDPR legislation.

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

- a) The Education Act (1998)
- b) Education (Welfare) Act (2000)
- c) Equal Status Act (2000)
- d) Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act (2004)
- e) Disability Act (2005)
- f) Children First Act (2017)
- g) GDPR
- h) Data Protection Act (2018)
- i) Department of Education: Child Protection Procedures for Primary schools

- j) NEWB Guidelines for Developing a Code of Behaviour (2008).
- k) DES Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for Primary Schools (May 2020)
- l) DES Guidance on Continuity of Schooling: *Supporting Primary Pupils at very High Risk to Covid 19* (August 2020).
- m) Guidance on Remote Learning in a COVID-19 Context: September - December 2020

This is a working document. As we continue to explore options available to support distance learning, the document will be updated.

Context

We recognise that online collaboration is useful for distance learning to help maintain the connection between school and home. St Brigid's J.N.S. uses the school website, Seesaw and phone/text contact to assist in providing effective learning opportunities and to facilitate communication between staff, families and students.

Guidelines for good online communication in St Brigid's J.N.S.

1. Staff, families and students are expected to behave in an appropriate, safe, respectful and kind manner online.
2. It is the duty of parents/guardians to supervise children while they are working online and to ensure that any content submitted to their teacher is appropriate. **St Brigid's J.N.S.** cannot accept responsibility for the security of online platforms, in the event that they are compromised.
3. Staff members will communicate with pupils and their families via Seesaw, phone calls, school website and Databiz.
4. Any electronic forms of communication will be for educational purposes and to allow for communication with families.
5. Students and staff will communicate using tools which have been approved by the school and of which parents have been notified (Seesaw, school website, phone calls/texts)
6. Parental permission will be acquired before setting up a profile for a pupil on a communication forum.

St Brigid's J.N.S. will use Seesaw and our school website, phone calls and text messages for communicating and connecting with families/pupils. Our 'Remote Teaching and Learning

Plan' will include a combination of assigned work on Seesaw/website, phone support and hard copy work.

Media which the school will use

Seesaw

Seesaw Class App is for our pupils to connect with their teacher and they then have the option of uploading items to their work folder for their teacher to see. This app is used from Junior Infants to Second Class. Parental consent is required prior to using this app and each child is then assigned an individual QR access code.

Zoom: Zoom is a video-conferencing platform which enables staff to connect via a live link. Teachers will connect with colleagues and management regularly using pre-arranged Zoom Meetings.

Rules for pupils using online communication

For submitting learning:

1. Submit work and pictures that are appropriate - have an adult take a look at your work before you send it.
2. Use kind and friendly words.

Guidelines for parents and guardians

It is the responsibility of parents and guardians

1. to ensure that pupils are supervised while they work online.
2. To check over the work which pupils send to their teacher, ensuring it is appropriate.
3. To revise online safety measures with pupils (there is a link on our website - www.stbrigidsbrookfield.ie).
4. We encourage a little work every week day for routine. We provide work and guidance and ask parents and pupils to do their best and that is all

Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Pupils and Parents

1. Check assigned work each week
2. The normal school calendar will apply
3. Normal school policies apply to remote teaching and learning:
 4. Teaching and Learning best practice will continue to apply, with students expected to present all assignments to the best of their ability and on time, where possible in this evolving and unprecedented situation.
 - a. In so far as possible, provision for SEN students will be made when using Remote Learning methodologies.
 - b. In so far as possible, provision for students deemed to be at very high-risk by a medical professional will be made when using Remote Learning methodologies.

We ask parents/guardians to ensure protocols for students are adhered to and to check-in on their child's school work daily and talk to them about the work being assigned.

Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Teachers/SNA's

1. Check uploaded work regularly
2. The normal school calendar will apply
3. The following school policies apply to remote teaching and learning:
 - a. Child Protection Policy
 - b. Data Protection Policy

Remote Teaching and Learning Provision specifically for the following Covid 19 related scenarios

Provision for children who are at very high risk to Covid 19:

The school will engage directly with relevant parents, regarding remote educational provision for children who are deemed to be at very high risk to Covid-19 (see HSE Guidelines) where medical certification has been provided to the school.

Provision for all other children who are instructed to self-isolate by their GP or HSE Public Health, educational provision will be provided as follows:

1. **Children who are awaiting Covid 19 test results for themselves or a family member and have been instructed by their GP to isolate at home for a few days.**

These pupils will be supported to catch up on their learning on their return to school.

2. **Children isolating at home on instruction from their GP due to a confirmed case within their own family/close contact outside of school (14-day isolation period).**

Teacher will link in with the pupil via See-Saw, phone support and provide hard copy material relevant to current learning in core subjects.

3. **School POD (group of six) instructed by HSE Public Health to self-isolate.**

Teacher will link in with the pupil via See-Saw, phone support and provide hard copy material relevant to current learning in core subjects.

4. **School bubble (whole class) instructed by HSE Public Health to self-isolate (14day isolation period).**

Teacher will link in with the pupil via See-Saw, phone support and provide hard copy material relevant to current learning in core subjects.

5. **Whole school closure as instructed by HSE Public Health (duration of closure will be advised by Public Health)**

Teacher will link in with the pupil via See-Saw, phone support and provide hard copy material relevant to current learning.

Please note that the current situation is quite fluid and these circumstances may vary throughout the year.

This plan was ratified by the BOM of **St Brigid's J.N.S.** at its meeting on: 24th November 2020 and is subject to change, in light of any guidance or instruction received from the Department of Education and Skills/HSE Public Health.

Signed: _____
(Chairperson BOM NS)

