



Scoil Éanna, Ballybay, Co Monaghan.

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## **Scoil Éanna Remote Teaching and Learning Plan for Covid-19 related absences**

### **1. 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 during Covid-19 related absences. 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 Mobile Phone or 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. Schools must ensure that learning takes place in an environment that is respectful and fair and meets its statutory duties.

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 (2017)
- 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 plan will be updated accordingly.

## 2. Context

Teaching and Learning is always evolving, especially, as we move deeper into the 21st century. Developments in IT provide us all with great opportunities as learners and teachers. Never before has there been greater scope to learn using technology and it continues to change the learning relationship between teachers and students. Advances in technology mean that assignments can 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 during Covid-19 related absences. However, whether a child is being directed remotely or via 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 Positive Behaviour and all of the school's policies apply.

We recognise that online collaboration is essential for distance learning and that families are in favour of increased opportunities to maintain the connection between school and home. Scoil Éanna uses a variety of child friendly, online tools, which assist in providing more effective teaching and learning, while also enabling greater communication between staff, families and pupils.

## 3. Guidelines for good online communication in Scoil Éanna

1. Under no circumstances should pictures or recordings be taken of video calls.
2. Staff, families and students are expected to behave in an appropriate, safe, respectful and kind manner online.
3. 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.
4. Staff members will communicate with pupils and their families via Email, Google Classroom or through an established app (e.g. Seesaw).
5. Any electronic forms of communication will be for educational purposes and to allow for communication with families.
6. Pupils and staff will communicate using tools which have been approved by the school and of which parents have been notified.
7. Parental permission has been acquired for the setting up of profiles for pupils on all communication forums.
8. For video/Zoom calls, parental permission is implied, as the link to a video call will be communicated via the parent/guardian's email address. Essentially, by virtue of the pupil logging on to the call, permission is assumed.
9. For security reasons, passwords will be provided to families, where applicable.
10. Scoil Éanna cannot accept responsibility for the security of online platforms, in the event that they are compromised.

Scoil Éanna will use four online platforms for communicating and connecting with families/pupils. Our 'Remote Teaching and Learning Plan' will include a combination of assigned work, pre-recorded lessons through Email, Seesaw & Google Classroom and live sessions (Zoom/Google Meet).

## 4. Media which the school will use

### School Email

Each teacher has been assigned a class e-mail address through which he/she will communicate with parents/guardians and vice-versa. Parental queries will be addressed during school hours only (9:00-2:40) and should relate strictly to your child's teaching and learning.

### Seesaw

*Seesaw Class App* is for our pupils to connect to their folder and they then have the option of uploading items to their folder for their teacher to see. This app is used by pupils throughout the school and requires a QR which can be accessed through the school email. Parental consent has been obtained for the using of this app. Each child has been assigned an individual access code. Unfortunately, single family login is not facilitated on Seesaw. Some lessons will be pre-recorded and uploaded via Seesaw.

### Google Classroom

Google Classroom is also an online platform used with pupils and again it enables our pupils to connect to their folder of work and it also allows access to their teacher when required. Our teachers may also provide feedback and communicate with pupils via Google Classroom. Some lessons may be pre-recorded and uploaded on Google Classroom. Teachers may engage with children through Google Meet. Parental consent has been obtained for the use of this app.

### Zoom

Zoom is a video-conferencing platform which will enable teachers, staff and pupils to connect via a live link. Teachers may connect with pupils using pre-arranged Zoom Meetings

## 5. Rules for pupils using online communication

### For submitting learning:

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

### For video calls/Zoom/Google Meet:

1. Remember to ensure you join each Zoom meeting using your family name.
2. Pictures or recordings of the video call are not allowed.
3. Remember our school rules - they are still in place, even online.
4. If possible, set up your device in a quiet space, with no distractions in the background.
5. Join the video with your microphone muted.
6. Raise your hand before speaking, just like you would do in class.
7. If you have the chance to talk, speak in your normal voice, using kind and friendly words.
8. Show respect by listening to others while they are speaking.

9. Ensure that you are dressed appropriately for the video call.
10. Be on time - set a reminder if it helps.
11. Enjoy! Don't forget to wave hello to everyone when you join!

## 6. Guidelines for parents and guardians

### For learning

1. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to ensure that pupils are supervised while they work online.
2. Check over the work which pupils send to their teacher, ensuring it is appropriate.
3. Continue to revise online safety measures with pupils.

### For video calls/Zoom/Google Meet

1. Under no circumstances should pictures or recordings be taken of video calls.
2. Ensure that the school has the correct email address for inviting you to join apps and meetings.
3. The main purpose of a video call is to engage in online learning activities while maintaining a social connection between the school staff and pupils. Encourage pupils to listen and enjoy the experience.
4. Be aware that when participating in group video calls, you can be seen and heard unless you are muted or have disabled your camera.
5. You will automatically enter a waiting room when the code for a Zoom/Google Meet call has been entered. Please note that school staff will only accept users into video call if you can be identified by the display name on your zoom account. (i.e. Family Name)
6. Please ensure that your child is on time for a scheduled video, or they may be locked out. Please request to join the Zoom/Google Meet call approximately five minutes before the scheduled start time. This will give school staff time to verify your email address.
7. Make sure to familiarise your child with the software in advance. For video in particular, show them how to mute/unmute and turn the camera on/off.
8. Participants in the call should be dressed appropriately.
9. An appropriate background/room should be chosen for the video call.
10. For detailed information on GDPR and Zoom, please visit <https://zoom.us/privacy>

It is important to note that any breach of the above guidelines will result in a discontinuation of this method of communication. A breach may also result in a person being immediately removed from a meeting or a meeting being immediately terminated.

## 7. Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Pupils

1. Check assigned work daily
2. Communication may only take place during normal school hours 9:00am – 2:40pm
3. The normal school calendar will apply. No interaction will take place during school holidays.
4. The following school policies apply to remote teaching and learning:
  - a. Code of Behaviour
  - b. Anti- Bullying Policy
  - c. Acceptable Use Policy

5. Teaching and Learning best practice will continue to apply, with pupils 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 pupils will be made when using Remote Learning methodologies.
  - b. In so far as possible, provision for students at very high-risk to Covid 19 will be made when using Remote Learning methodologies.

## 8. Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Parents

1. We ask parents/guardians to ensure protocols for students are adhered to.
2. Check-in on their child's school work on a daily basis and talk to their child about the work being assigned.
3. The health and wellbeing of all is paramount. Circumstances may change for any of us unexpectedly, teachers or parents, so please keep schooling in perspective and do not allow anything school related to impinge on your child negatively. You are the primary educator of your child and you make those calls. 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.

## 9. Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Teachers

1. Two-way feedback between teachers and parents/guardians and between teachers and pupils is encouraged and supported.
2. Teachers will provide manageable and accessible opportunities for all pupils to regularly share samples of their work with throughout the week.
3. Work received will be corrected and relevant feedback will be provided to motivate pupils to stay engaged and make progress in their learning.
4. Frequent engagement can provide a sense of normality and connection for pupils and can contribute to their sense of wellbeing.
5. Communication will take place during normal school hours 9:00am – 2:40pm.
6. The normal school calendar will apply. No interaction will take place during school holidays.
7. The following school policies apply to remote teaching and learning:
  - a. Child Protection Policy
  - b. Data Protection Policy
8. Teaching and Learning best practice will continue to apply with pupils expected to present all assignments to the best of their ability and on time, where possible.

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

**Class Teacher:** The class teacher should provide for continuity of schooling to the greatest extent possible. However, this may not always be a practical option. Therefore, all teachers are expected to be flexible in their approach to supporting pupils who are advised to restrict their movements.

**Special Education Teacher (SET):** The principle of allocating the greatest level of support to those pupils with the greatest need remains, in line with the Continuum of Support. However, the SET(s) assigned to a pupil/class affected can be reassigned this time to support remote teaching and learning. Alternatively, the SET(s) can reassign time normally allocated for whole-school and

classroom support (for all) on the Continuum of Support from his/her normal timetable, by, for example, pausing some team-teaching initiatives for the duration of a closure to release time for remote teaching and learning.

**SNA:** SNAs should collaborate with the class teacher in order to provide learning support for pupils on their caseload with special educational needs (SEN) who are required to restrict their movements.

**A teacher from the staff who has been advised to restrict his/her movements:** A teacher on the staff who has been advised to restrict his/her movements but is medically fit for work can support remote learning for individual pupils or classes on Covid-19 related absence in line with circular 0049/2020

### **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:**

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

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

**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).**

Class teacher/SET will engage with the pupil via See-Saw/Google-Classroom.

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

Class teacher/SET will engage with the pupils via See-Saw/Google-Classroom/Zoom.

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

Class teacher/SET will engage with the bubble daily on Seesaw/Google Classroom or Zoom.

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

All teachers who are medically fit for work, including SETs will be available to work remotely and will provide remote teaching and learning to all pupils in their class or on their caseload. Teachers will engage with pupils, using a blended approach of pre-recorded lessons, Seesaw/Google Classroom. Substitute teachers will be arranged to provide remote teaching for pupils in classes where the teacher has been diagnosed with Covid-19 and is medically unfit for work.

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

## 11. Main Points:

1. Two-way feedback between teachers and parents/guardians and between teachers and pupils is encouraged and supported.
2. Do what you can, within your circumstances.
3. There will be no school work set for planned school closures/holidays. There will be no interaction on Seesaw or Google Classroom during these times.
4. The remote teaching and learning platform will mainly be used for Covid-19 related absences.
5. Staff will be contactable only during school hours 9:00am – 2:40pm
6. Please keep abreast of postings through school email, it is our main mode of communication going forward.
7. We ask parents/guardians, students and teachers to ensure protocols are adhered to at all times.
8. If you have yet to connect to any of the on-line platforms, please do so. If you are experiencing difficulties, please email the school and we will assist you in any way that we can and please contact the school with any further queries you may have.
9. If a child is out of school for any of the above reasons we ask that they or their parent/guardian make contact, through their class email, with the class teacher if they are well enough to engage in remote learning.
10. Pupils who have been identified as not having access to digital devices through the 'ICT in the home during Covid-19' survey, may be provided with a digital device for the duration of restricted movement/self-isolation.

We thank the school community for adhering to the above guidelines for everyone's safety and welfare.

This plan has been ratified by the BOM of Scoil Éanna 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, Board of Management

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal, Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Recommended Apps

In addition to a pared back plan of work for your child/children, we suggest the following Apps for your child's use too, if you can access them. If not, do not worry, they are helpful but not essential.

- Dexterity/ Dexterity Junior (fine Motor skills)
  - King of Maths (1<sup>st</sup> class+)
  - MATH BALANCE
  - Sumaze (number puzzles for 3<sup>rd</sup> Class+)
  - Slice Fractions 93<sup>rd</sup> class+)
  - Teach Monster (phonics and reading, three levels)
  - Jolly Phonics (up to 1<sup>st</sup> class)
  - Khan Kids (early maths)
  - Reading Realm (2<sup>nd</sup> class+) short reading comprehension passages
  - One Minute Reader (levelled reading)
  - Reading Comprehension (2<sup>nd</sup> class+)
  - Spell Spire (3<sup>rd</sup> class+)
  - Alphabear (scrabble/spelling 3<sup>rd</sup> class+)
  - Vocabulary Ninja/VocabLab (3<sup>rd</sup> class+)
  - Kahoot (quizzes on all kinds of topics)
  - GoNoodle (app or You Tube)
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- Cúla 4: Excellent for younger pupils for Irish vocab – very child friendly. There are also videos of your children's favourite cartoons here as Gaeilge which would be useful to watch occasionally to keep up with Irish.
  - Doulingo: most suitable from 2nd class upwards. Excellent app. Tests your child Irish ability level at the start and they work away at their own level for 10mins daily.
  - Mathduel: For tables. Fun and interactive.
  - Starfall: For spellings. Again, very child friendly and useful to keep spellings progressing without feeling like schoolwork.
  - Jolly Phonics App: to keep up phonics learning for infant classes.
  - Dolch words Apps (there is a wide range available): for the development of sight words.
  - Nessy Apps: for reading for pupils with dyslexia or difficulties.
  - PinkFong: Digital stories for infant classes. Excellent and engaging.
  - Khan Academy: Useful for maths for older pupils especially.
  - Kahoot: for general knowledge and quizzes.



- Toontastic: probably the best app ever for digital storytelling – pupils can devise their own digital story, picking a range of characters, settings, even musical background. They plan a beginning, middle and end to their story and can record their own voices to tell the story.
- Puppetpals: similar to toontastic – useful for younger pupils. They can record themselves telling the story also.
- Lightbot – Coding app – super for all ages.