Ballycarry Primary School

# Remote Learning Policy



 December 2021

School address: 23 Hillhead Road, Ballycarry, Co Antrim, BT38 9HE

**Introduction**

In light of the current pandemic, schools have had to adapt to provide a new way of learning away from the classroom. This policy aims to set out how the governors and staff of Ballycarry Primary School will provide for the continued education and support of children within their care. At Ballycarry Primary School we recognise the need to support the children and their families through this challenging time.

**Remote Learning**

Remote learning is defined as learning that takes place when the student and the teacher are not physically present in the traditional classroom.

At Ballycarry Primary School we had been using Seesaw since 2017 and so we have continued to use this as our main learning platform.

During the first period of lockdown we provided hard copies of materials to assist with the home learning. Following feedback from some parents, it was agreed that we should continue with this and indeed this has been extended to include the distribution of textbooks and novels for certain year groups. Some year groups have also decided to use google classroom to distribute worksheets and activities.

As teachers, we recognise that the children will not be able to complete the same amount of work that they would do in class. We have therefore prioritised the areas of Literacy and Numeracy at this time. Teachers will, however, continue to provide some PDMU and World Around Us activities.

**Well-being**

The health and well-being of the children, parents and staff is of the utmost importance at this time. The staff will be very supportive in their interactions with the children and parents.

In an effort to minimise any feelings of isolation that the children may be feeling, they will be encouraged to take part in weekly challenges and to view and comment on them. We will also, where appropriate, provide a facility for the children to send a morning message to the teacher and their peers. It is important that the children continue to get as much exercise as possible and to take regular breaks outside. Online PE lessons and physical challenges will be used to encourage this.

**Role of Children** (With appropriate assistance from parents/carers)

To log onto Seesaw each day

To complete and upload daily work set by the teacher

To take regular breaks from the online learning

To behave appropriately when using Seesaw

**Role of Parents**

To ensure that their child has internet connection and a suitable device for connecting to Seesaw

To connect to both the Seesaw Class and Family App

To ensure that children complete tasks, to the best of their ability and upload completed work to Seesaw

To ensure the safety of their child online. Please see the NSPCC online safety advice at www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-safe-online/online-safety/

To communicate with the teacher via Seesaw if they have any concerns

To communicate with the Principal on the school telephone (02893353706) or by the school mobile 07936643071 or by email at cforsythe499@c2kni.net.

**Role of Teachers**

To provide packs of work when necessary for their classes

To provide a daily welcome and outline of the work to be completed

To assign daily Literacy, Numeracy activities.

To assign supplementary Seesaw, WAU and PDMU activities

To assign a weekly challenge to promote peer interaction and well being

To provide activities associated with special days eg Maths Week, Internet Safety Day, World book Day and Anti-Bullying Week etc

To understand that remote learning may require explanation through modelled examples, recorded explanations and videos.

To reply to messages and give feedback on learning activities during working school hours

To be available to parents during their normal working hours via Seesaw

To provide technical support for parents, when necessary

To take regular breaks from the computer to engage in other professional duties eg preparation, planning and online training.

**Role of the Principal**

To oversee the workings of the Remote Learning Policy

To be in regular contact and available to staff

To be in contact with and available to parents as appropriate

**Covid–related absences**

In the event of children needing to self-isolate because of Covid 19, teachers will post work on Seesaw for the child to complete if they are in a position to do so.

**Non Engagement with Seesaw**

* In the event of a child not engaging with Seesaw on a regular basis, the teacher will liaise the parents through Seesaw.
* Should this continue then the teacher will contact the parents by telephone.
* Should the lack of engagement continue the Principal will make contact with the parents.

At all times the staff will try and support parents to support their children with the learning. This may be via technical support or assistance with the provision of devices.

We are very aware of the individual challenges that families are facing and are very sympathetic to this. As I highlighted to the children, it is at times like these that kindness to one another is so important.