

Blackwater Integrated College

Remote Learning Policy

INTRODUCTION

In the event of long-term closure, staff at Blackwater Integrated College will continue to provide education and support to our pupils using remote learning. In this case, all learning will be conducted using a pupil's Google Classroom @c2ken.net account. This will allow staff to keep in regular contact in a professional and confidential manner with each pupil in their class. Teachers will be able to schedule learning in a manner that does not overwhelm or concern our pupils. Teaching and learning can be tailored, changed and updated as time progresses, allowing for replication of classroom activity to the best of our ability. In all communications we will adhere to our commitment to maintaining pupil wellbeing.

FLEXIBILITY

We realise that the circumstances that cause our school to close will affect families in a number of ways. In our planning and expectations, we are aware of the need for flexibility from all sides: parents may be trying to work from home and so access to technology as a family may be limited; teachers may be trying to manage their home situation and the learning of their own children; systems may not always function as they should. An understanding of, and willingness to adapt to, these difficulties on all sides is essential for success.

EXPECTATIONS

In the case of long term closure, we believe that it is in the best interests of our pupils that we continue to provide structured support to the best of our ability. Bearing in mind the need for flexibility, we understand that work may be completed out of sync with when it is shared and as such, no strict deadlines will be set. That said, the work that pupils engage in during a period of closure will be part of our current planning and so cannot be considered as optional. Pupils and parents should consider the arrangements as set out in this document as highly recommended.

Teaching and Classroom Assistants will work together to:

- Share teaching and activities with their class on an ongoing basis through Google Classroom.
- Continue teaching in line with current, extensive planning that is already in place throughout the school.
- Give credence to the fact that learning remotely will be more difficult, so tasks will be shortened and supported in smaller steps to allow for this.
- Reply to pupils' work-related communication, set work on activities at regular intervals
- Check work related emails daily.
- During normal teaching hours adequately plan, prepare, research resources for home learning.
- Make allowances for asynchronous learning and will not set strict deadlines for completion of activities, understanding that the circumstances leading to our closure will affect families in a number of ways.
- Take regular breaks away from the computer or iPad to engage in other professional duties as much as circumstances allow.
- If unwell themselves, be covered by another staff member for sharing of activities each day.
- Adhere to the school's *E-Safety, ICT Acceptable Use and Digital Safeguarding Policy* & all relevant safeguarding policies.
- Classroom Assistants or Teachers may sometimes contact families by phone call at some stage during long periods of school closure; this will be a professional 'Check-in' phone call to see how pupils are doing.

- **Pupils will:**
- Be assured that wellbeing is at the forefront of our thoughts and they should take regular breaks, get fresh air, exercise and maintain a reasonable balance between online engagement and offline activities.
- Only access the material shared by their teacher and will ask for parental permission to use technology for anything beyond that.
- Read daily, either independently or with an adult.
- Consider using the school closure time to learn a new skill, follow their own interests to discover more about the world around us or be creative.
- Adhere to the school's *E-Safety, ICT Acceptable Use and Digital Safeguarding Policy* & all relevant safeguarding policies.

Parents will:

- Support their child's learning to the best of their ability.
- Encourage their child to access and engage with Google Classroom content from their teachers.
- Not screenshot or copy any information, messages or posts to share on social media or any other platform.
- Adhere to our schools *E-Safety, ICT Acceptable Use and Digital Safeguarding Policy*
- Know they can continue to contact the school as normal through social media and school email.
- Check their child's completed work and encourage the progress that is being made.
- Be mindful of mental well-being of both themselves and their child and encourage their child to take regular breaks, play games, get fresh air and relax.
- Respond to any 'Check-in' phone call from your child's class teacher or Classroom Assistant in a supportive and constructive manner.

Signed: D McAlorum

March 2020

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