The Catholic High School Chester

Remote Learning Policy

Approved By	Full Governing Board
Category	Curriculum
Policy Owner	T. Wilson
Date Approved	14/7/26
Next Review Date	July 2028

1. Statement of Intent

1.1 The Catholic High School is committed to ensuring that pupils continue to receive a high-quality education whenever they are unable to attend school in person for reasons beyond their control.

1.2 The school recognises that face-to-face teaching remains the most effective form of education and that remote education is not a substitute for regular attendance. Remote education will therefore only be provided in circumstances where attendance at school is not possible or appropriate and where it is reasonable to do so.

1.3 Through the effective use of digital technologies, high-quality teaching resources and appropriate support, the school aims to minimise disruption to pupils' education, maintain continuity of learning and ensure that pupils remain engaged with the curriculum.

1.4 The school is committed to:

- Providing high-quality remote education where appropriate.
- Supporting pupils to continue learning during periods of authorised absence.
- Ensuring remote education is inclusive and accessible.
- Maintaining high standards of safeguarding, online safety and data protection.
- Supporting pupils to return to full-time, face-to-face education as soon as possible.

2. Legal Framework

2.1 This policy has due regard to relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Education Act 2002
- Education Act 1996
- Equality Act 2010
- Data Protection Act 2018
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) (current version)
- DfE Guidance: *Providing Remote Education: Non-Statutory Guidance for Schools*
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0–25 years (where applicable)

2.2 The school recognises that remote education is not a substitute for regular attendance at school. Wherever possible, pupils are expected to attend school in person, and remote education will only be provided where attendance is not possible or appropriate.

2.3 Remote education will be delivered in a manner that is appropriate to the age, needs and circumstances of the pupil, taking account of safeguarding, accessibility, curriculum continuity and the availability of suitable technology.

3. When Remote Education Will Be Provided

3.1 The Catholic High School believes that face-to-face education provides the best learning experience for pupils. Remote education is not intended to replace attendance at school and will only be provided where it is appropriate and reasonably practicable to do so.

3.2 The school may provide remote education where:

- The school, or part of the school, is required to close due to exceptional circumstances.
- An individual pupil is unable to attend school for a short period due to a medical condition, recovery from surgery or other exceptional circumstances, and is well enough to engage with learning.
- A pupil's absence has been agreed by the Headteacher and remote education is considered appropriate.

3.3 The school will consider each request for remote education on an individual basis, taking into account:

- The reason for the absence.
- The expected duration of the absence.
- The pupil's ability to access and engage with remote learning.
- The impact on the pupil's education.
- Any advice provided by medical professionals or other agencies, where appropriate.

3.4 Remote education will not normally be provided where:

- A pupil is absent due to unauthorised absence or truancy.
- A pupil is on holiday during term time.
- A pupil is suspended, unless the school is required to provide education in accordance with statutory guidance.
- A pupil is too unwell to engage with learning.

3.5 Remote education will normally be provided for short-term continuity of learning and will be reviewed regularly. The school will work with pupils and parents/carers to support a return to full-time, face-to-face education at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

4. Delivery of Remote Education

4.1 Where remote education is provided, the school will seek to ensure that pupils continue to access a broad and balanced curriculum that is closely aligned to the learning taking place in school.

4.2 Remote education will be proportionate to the length and nature of the absence and will be delivered using the school's approved digital platforms, together with other approved educational resources where appropriate.

4.3 Teachers will provide learning activities that:

- Follow the planned curriculum wherever reasonably practicable.
- Enable pupils to make continued academic progress.
- Are appropriate to the age, ability and needs of the pupil.
- Include clear instructions, resources and, where appropriate, opportunities for feedback.

4.4 Remote education may include a range of teaching approaches, including:

- Teacher-prepared learning resources.
- Recorded explanations or instructional videos.
- Live online lessons where appropriate.
- Independent learning activities.
- Online quizzes, retrieval practice and assessments.
- Directed use of approved online learning platforms.

4.5 Teachers will provide feedback in accordance with the school's Feedback and Assessment Policy. The method and frequency of feedback may vary depending on the nature of the work and the duration of the remote education.

4.6 Pupils are expected to complete the work provided within the agreed timescales and seek support from their teachers where they require further clarification or assistance.

5. Digital Access and Inclusion

5.1 The school recognises that effective remote education depends on pupils having appropriate access to digital technology, internet connectivity and learning resources.

5.2 Where remote education is provided, the school will make reasonable efforts to identify and reduce barriers to learning, including access to suitable devices, internet connectivity and specialist resources.

5.3 Where reasonably practicable and subject to availability, the school may provide or loan equipment to pupils who are unable to access remote education using their own devices.

5.4 Where a pupil is unable to access remote education due to exceptional circumstances, the school will work with the pupil and their family to identify appropriate alternative arrangements wherever reasonably practicable.

6. Safeguarding, Online Safety and Data Protection

6.1 The school will ensure that appropriate safeguarding arrangements remain in place whenever remote education is provided.

6.2 All staff delivering remote education must continue to comply with the school's:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Staff Code of Conduct.
- Online Safety Policy.
- Data Protection Policy and Acceptable Use Policy.

6.3 Approved school platforms and communication systems will be used for the delivery of remote education. Staff and pupils must not use personal accounts or unauthorised platforms to communicate or share learning.

6.4 Staff must report any safeguarding concerns or online safety incidents immediately in accordance with the school's safeguarding procedures.

6.5 Personal data will be processed in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018 and the school's Data Protection Policy.

6.6 Where live online sessions are delivered, staff will ensure that appropriate professional standards are maintained at all times, including the use of suitable environments, appropriate communication and approved school systems. Live online sessions will be recorded for safeguarding purposes.

7. Monitoring and Review

7.1 The Headteacher and Governing Board will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of this policy to ensure that remote education arrangements remain appropriate, effective and compliant with current legislation and statutory guidance.

7.2 The school will review the effectiveness of its remote education arrangements following any significant period of remote education, taking into account:

- The quality of education provided.
- Pupil engagement and participation.
- Feedback from pupils, parents/carers and staff, where appropriate.
- Any safeguarding, online safety or technical issues identified.

7.3 Where monitoring identifies areas for improvement, appropriate changes will be made to the school's remote education arrangements and this policy.

7.4 This policy will be reviewed every 2 years, or sooner where:

- There are significant changes to legislation or statutory guidance.
- Changes are made to the school's digital learning platforms or procedures.
- A significant incident or prolonged period of remote education identifies the need for revision.

7.5 The next scheduled review date is shown on the front page of this policy.