



The Villa Pre-Prep

Remote Teaching and Learning Policy

Whole School Teaching and Learning Policy on the continuity of curricular provision and pastoral care during a longer period of term time school closure.

In the event of a school closure, The Villa is committed to providing continuity of education and pastoral care to its pupils and will do so through a process of Remote Teaching and Learning. Extensive Remote Teaching and Learning would apply particularly in a situation in which the school is closed for an extended period of time, but when a high proportion of pupils and staff are healthy, and able to work as normal from home. This policy does not apply in the event of short-term school closures (e.g. as a result of inclement weather) or a short-term pupil absence. Remote Teaching and Learning may also be appropriate in situations when pupils, in agreement with the school, have a period of absence but are able to work at home, at least to some extent. This may apply in cases such as longer term illness, assuming pupils are able to complete school work at home. Another relevant instance would be if, following an infectious disease outbreak, pupils are self-isolating at home but are not suffering with relevant symptoms. This policy is under constant review and may be revised as necessary in light of further experience of Remote Teaching and Learning and the circumstances around its necessity. For example, the extent to which different methods of instruction are employed is likely to be determined by the length of any school closure and the ability of both pupils and staff to participate in Remote Teaching and Learning, owing to widespread illness, for example.

The Remote Teaching and Learning programme will be implemented with the aim of ensuring that as much of The Villa's educational provision as possible will be maintained during the closure, based on the following principles:

1. In the event of a long closure, frequent communication, led by the Head, but at all levels, will be key to maintaining a sense of purpose and community. Everyone needs to play their part in initiating and keeping up dialogues with staff, pupils and parents. The regular updating of the website and other social media will be key in this respect.
2. The wellbeing of the whole community is paramount. Assemblies will be delivered remotely and at revised times to support the pastoral life of the community.
3. Academic work should be as challenging and purposeful as it would be were the school open, though it is acknowledged that it may be different in its nature owing to the circumstances. Timetables will be amended to facilitate remote learning. Delivery of the curriculum will be appropriate to the age of the pupils.
4. Pastoral Support and Safeguarding will be robust. The Villa's Safeguarding, Acceptable Use Policies have been reviewed to ensure our children's safety, mental health and wellbeing during remote learning.
5. Pupils and staff throughout the school will be expected to work following amended timetables. Parents and pupils will have access to the new timetables, which will be emailed weekly, for as long as the school is closed.
6. The Head Teacher and Class Teachers will maintain an overview role to support pupils in the maintenance of wellbeing, progress and achievement.
7. The systems of the School - in particular Token rewards - will continue to be used as far as they are practicable, these will be awarded through Class Dojo.
8. Absence. Staff should contact the Head Teacher if they are unwell. Cover work should be set by agreement with the Head.

Overview of Remote Teaching and Learning.

Please see the 'Guide to Remote Teaching at The Villa' for more information on the platforms used by the school to support remote teaching and learning.

Safeguarding

The Villa's Safeguarding procedures have been reviewed to ensure best practice whilst the majority of our children work remotely. Our revised procedures are outlined in a new annex to our Safeguarding Policy, titled 'COVID-19 arrangements for safeguarding and child protection at The Villa School'.

As our curriculum moves online, our teaching of E-Safety is of paramount importance. Our E-Safety curriculum will continue to be taught remotely and staff are asked to promote the principles of E-Safety in all of their online interactions.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The COVID-19 pandemic is a new and uncertain time for all members of our school community and will affect our mental health in different ways. However children, parents and staff are feeling right now is valid and The Villa will support all members of the school community at this time.

Feeling concerned or overwhelmed by the news is understandable. It might be that members of the school community are anxious about their own health, the health of someone in their family, or what impact the virus will have on their life.

If a child, parent or member of staff is feeling anxious during this time, they should speak to their class teacher for support and advice. The Head Teacher and teachers will keep in regular contact with children and families via online communications and/or telephone calls.

Advice for parents and teachers for supporting children if they're feeling worried:

- Talk to them about what's going on. Find out how they're feeling and what they're thinking about, let them know it's okay to feel scared or unsure, and try to answer their questions and reassure them in an age-appropriate manner. Remember, you do not need to know all the answers, but talking things through can help them feel calmer.
- Help them to reflect on how they're feeling and encourage them to think about the things they can do to make them feel safer and less worried.
- Reassure them that this will pass, you're there for them, and you will get through this together.
- Encourage children to spend time doing a positive activity such as reading, playing, painting or cooking to help reassure them and reduce their anxiety. This is also a great way of providing a space for them to talk through their concerns without having a 'big chat'.
- Encourage children and families to keep to as many regular routines as possible so that children feel safe and stable.

The school community should also give consideration to advice from 'Young Minds' for those who are feeling anxious:

- Talk to someone about how you're feeling
- Arm yourself with the facts and be wary of false reports which can fuel anxiety. The government website provides the most-up-to-date and reliable source of information and the NHS coronavirus page can also be useful if you are worried about symptoms or family members.

- Don't overexpose yourself to the news
- Plan your time to ensure that you prioritise your wellbeing. Try to find time in your routine for activities that help you feel calm.

More information about supporting children with their mental health can be found on these links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supportingchildren-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-andcarers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeingduring-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/looking-after-yourself/coronavirus-and-mentalhealth/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/supporting-your-child-during-thecoronavirus-pandemic/>