Valley Road Remote Education Policy

Aim:

Should pupils not be able to attend school, they must have access to a good quality of education.

Scenarios where remote education should be considered:

- School closures or restrictions on attendance, where school access for pupils is restricted. This may be dictated by schools' leaders, local authorities on central government.
- Individual cases where a pupil is unable to attend school but is able to learn. These circumstances should only involve a short-term absence and assessed on a case-by case basis.

Principles:

- In-school attendance is essential for attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances; remote education is a last resort only when the alternative is no education.
- The provision of remote education should not compromise the quality of education for the majority of children who are attending school in person.
- In the rare circumstances where remote education is applicable, teachers will endeavour to deliver live lessons via Teams.
- Alternatively, high quality lessons developed by external providers such as Oak National Academy can be provided instead of school led video content.
- Remote leaning packs will be provided where deemed necessary, as agreed by the Senior Leadership Team.
- Conduct of adults and children during online emote education must adhere to the principles and expectations set out in our behaviour policy, code of conduct framework and safeguarding policy.

Approach to wider provision:

Careful consideration will be given to:

- Provision being ready for pupils to access as soon as reasonably practicable, though in proportion to the length of absence and expected disruption to education.
- Providing remote education that is equivalent in length to the core teaching time pupils would receive in school where possible, being mindful of the individual needs and circumstances of the pupil and their families.
- Providing access to digital platforms (for example, Microsoft 365) and devices (such as a laptop) to enable equitable provision.

- Planning opportunities for feedback and interaction during the school day.
- Ensuring work is set and marked for pupils during the first five school days of a suspension or permanent exclusion.
- Adhering to guidance regarding legal duties to pupils with SEND.
- Providing food vouchers or lunch parcels where pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals are receiving remote education.

Approach to individual provision:

When a pupil is absent, the school should always seek to overcome the barriers to attendance and provide support for the pupil to attend, regularly reviewing any barriers in conjunction with the pupil, parents or carers, and if appropriate, a relevant medical professional.

Remote education should not be viewed as an equal alternative to attendance in school, and providing remote education during a pupil's absence does not reduce the importance of bringing that absence to an end as soon as possible.

In the limited circumstances when the school decides to use remote education for individual pupils when they are absent, the following should be considered:

- Ensuring mutual agreement of remote education by the school, parents or carers, potentially pupils, and if appropriate a relevant medical professional. If the pupil has an Education, Health and Care plan or has a social worker, the local authority should also be involved in the decision.
- Where remote education is being used as part of a plan to reintegrate back to school, putting a formal arrangement in place to review its efficacy regularly, alongside identifying what other support and flexibilities can be put in place to help ease the pupil back to school at the earliest opportunity.
- Setting a time limit within which the period of remote education provision should be reviewed, with the aim that the pupil returns to in person education with the required support in place to meet their needs.

External guidance links:

- DfE Guidance on remote education (January 2023): Providing remote education: non-statutory guidance for schools (publishing.service.gov.uk)
- DfE Guidance on safeguarding & remote education (March 2021): Safeguarding and remote education - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)