Naul National School Remote Teaching and Learning Plan

Introduction

In response to this time of uncertainty regarding school closures, we have formulated this policy to outline how the school will maintain the link between school and home. In the event of another whole or partial school closure, we aim to continue to communicate with our pupils through various means.

We recognise that online safety is of huge importance and the aim of this document is to help to protect both school staff and pupils, while teaching and learning online.

The primary obligation of all schools is to the welfare of the learners in their school. This policy, therefore, seeks to ensure that remote learning is safe for all student learners and that personal and sensitive data is also protected under GDPR legislation. Schools must ensure that learning takes place in an environment that is respectful and fair and meets its statutory duties. This Policy has been formulated in accordance with the provisions of the Department of Education and relevant sections of:

a) The Education Act (1998)
b) Education (Welfare) Act (2000)
c) Equal Status Act (2000)
d) Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act (2004)
e) Disability Act (2005)
f) Children First Act (2017)
g) GDPR
h) Data Protection Act (2018)
i) Department of Education: Child Protection Procedures for Primary schools
j) NEWB Guidelines for Developing a Code of Behaviour (2008).
k) DES Guidance on Continuity of Schooling for Primary Schools (May 2020)
l) DES Guidance on Continuity of Schooling: *Supporting Primary Pupils at very High Risk to Covid 19* (August 2020).
m) Guidance on Remote Learning in a COVID-*19* Context: September – December 2020

Context

Teaching and Learning is always evolving. Developments in IT provide us all with great opportunities as learners and teachers. Never before has there been greater scope to learn using technology and it continues to change the learning relationship between teachers and students. Advances in technology mean that assignments can be delivered remotely and that greater access to information on the internet affords the opportunities for real learning to take place under the watchful and professional guidance of the teacher. However, whether a child is being directed remotely or via a traditional classroom environment, it is very important that all partners are aware that once a learning exchange takes place between a student and teacher, whether at home or school, the same statutory rules apply i.e. the school's Code of Behaviour and all of the school's policies apply.

We recognise that online collaboration is essential for distance learning and that families are in favour of increased opportunities to maintain the connection between school and home. Naul NS uses child friendly, online tools, which assist in providing more effective teaching and learning, while also enabling greater communication between staff, families and students.

Guidelines for good online communication in Naul National School

1. Staff, families and students are expected to behave in an appropriate, safe, respectful and kind manner online.
2. It is the duty of parents/guardians to supervise children while they are working online and to ensure that any content submitted to their teacher is appropriate.
3. Staff members will communicate with pupils and their families via Seesaw.
4. Any electronic forms of communication will be for educational purposes and to allow for communication with families.
5. Students and staff will communicate using tools which have been approved by the school and of which parents have been notified (Seesaw)

Media which the school will use

The Aladdin App

Staff will communicate regularly with parents and pupils via the school App. All families are asked to download the school and to check it regularly for updates and important information.

Teacher email addresses

Each teacher will be assigned an individual address through which he/she will communicate with parents/guardians and vice-versa. Parental queries will be addressed during school hours only (8.50-2:30) and should relate strictly to your child's teaching and learning.

Seesaw

Seesaw Class App is for our pupils to connect to their folder and they then have the option of uploading items to their folder for their teacher to see. This app is used from Junior Infants – Sixth Class and requires a QR which can be accessed through the school email.

Parental consent is required prior to using this app. Each child will be assigned an individual access code. Unfortunately, single family log in is not facilitated on Seesaw.

Rules for pupils using online communication

For submitting learning:
1. Submit work and pictures that are appropriate - have an adult take a look at your work before you send it. Work should be submitted daily.
2. Use kind and friendly words.

Guidelines for parents and guardians

For learning
1. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to ensure that pupils are supervised while they work online.
2. Check over the work which pupils send to their teacher, ensuring it is appropriate.
3. Continue to revise online safety measures with pupils.

Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Pupils

1. Check assigned work each week
2. Communication may only take place during normal school hours
3. The normal school calendar will apply
4. The following school policies apply to remote teaching and learning:
   a. Code of Behaviour
   b. Anti- Bullying Policy
   c. Acceptable Use Policy
5. Teaching and Learning best practice will continue to apply, with students expected to present all assignments to the best of their ability and on time, where possible.
   a. In so far as possible, provision for SEN students will be made when using Remote Learning methodologies.
   b. In so far as possible, provision for student at very high-risk to Covid 19 will be made when using Remote Learning methodologies.

Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Parents

1. We ask parents/guardians to ensure protocols for students are adhered to.
2. Check-in on their child's school work on and talk to their child about the work being assigned.
3. The health and wellbeing of all is paramount. Circumstances may change for any of us unexpectedly, teachers or parents, so please keep schooling in perspective and do not allow anything school related to impinge on your child negatively. You are the primary educator of your child and you make those calls. We encourage a little work every weekday for routine. We provide work and guidance and ask parents and pupils to do their best and that is all.

Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Teachers/SNAs

1. Check uploaded work each week

2. Communication may only take place during normal school hours
3. The normal school calendar will apply
4. The following school policies apply to remote teaching and learning:
    a. Child Protection Policy
    b. Data Protection Policy
5. Teaching and Learning best practice will continue to apply with students expected to present all assignments to the best of their ability and on time, where possible.

Summary:

1. Do what you can, within your circumstances. There are different scenarios in each household so make the best of your own circumstances. Keep in touch with the class teacher and they will assist you as best they can.
2. There will be no schoolwork set for planned school closures/holidays. There will be no interaction on Aladdin or Seesaw during these times
3. Please keep abreast of postings on the Aladdin and emails– it is our main mode of communication going forward.
4. We ask parents/guardians, students and teachers to ensure protocols are adhered to at all times.
5. If you have yet to connect to the See saw/aladdin App, please do so. If you are experiencing difficulties please email the class teacher or mcmahonnaulns@gmail.com and we will assist you in any way that we can and please contact the school with any further queries you may have.

We thank the school community for adhering to the above guidelines for everyone's safety and welfare.

<u>Recommended Apps</u>

In addition to a pared back plan of work for your child/children, we suggest the following Apps for your child's use too, if you can access them. If not, do not worry, they are helpful but not essential.

- Cúla 4: Excellent for younger pupils for Irish vocab – very child friendly. There are also videos of your children's favourite cartoons here as Gaeilge which would be useful to watch occasionally to keep up with Irish.
- Doulingo: most suitable from 2nd class upwards. Excellent app. Tests your child Irish ability level at the start and they work away at their own level for 10mins daily.
- Mathduel: For tables. Fun and interactive.
- Starfall: For spellings. Again, very child friendly and useful to keep spellings progressing without feeling like schoolwork.
- Jolly Phonics App: to keep up phonics learning for infant classes.
- Dolch words Apps (there is a wide range available): for the development of sight words.
- PinkFong: Digital stories for infant classes. Excellent and engaging.
- Khan Academy: Useful for maths for older pupils especially.
- Kahoot: for general knowledge and quizzes.
- Toontastic: probably the best app ever for digital storytelling – pupils can devise their own digital story, picking a range of characters, settings, even musical background. They plan a beginning, middle and end to their story and can record their own voices to tell the story.
- Puppetpals: similar to toontastic – useful for younger pupils. They can record themselves telling the story also.
- Lightbot – Coding app – super for all ages.