



Lankill N.S. Remote Learning Policy

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.

This policy does not set out to replace our Acceptable Usage Policy. Rather, it is proposed as an important addition to the area of learning from a digital platform. The policy presented here should be read also in tandem with our school's Code of Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying (including Cyber Bullying) Policy.

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).

Context

Teaching and Learning is always evolving. Developments in information technology (IT) provide us all with great opportunities as learners and teachers. 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 Positive 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. Lankill N.S. uses a variety of child friendly, online tools, which assist in providing more effective teaching and learning, while also enabling greater communication between staff, families and students.

Communication with parents

All communications with parents will be through Aladdin, teachers school email (username@lankillns.ie) and the Seesaw app. In exceptional circumstances Zoom may be used on permission of the parents. Prior approval of parents is required before using this app.

Teachers will send a weekly plan of work to parents before Monday of each week through Aladdin.

Curricular Planning

As per the departments recommendations the priority curricular subjects are English, Mathematics, Gaelge, Physical Education and Social, Personal and Health Education.

Other curricular areas may be integrated with the subjects above.

Guidelines for good online communication:

1. Under no circumstances should pictures or recordings be taken of video calls.
2. Staff, families and students are expected to behave in an appropriate, safe, respectful and kind manner online.
3. 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.
4. Staff members will communicate with pupils and their families via Seesaw or through the teacher's school email.
5. Any electronic forms of communication will be for educational purposes and to allow for communication with families.
6. Students and staff will communicate using tools which have been approved by the school and of which parents have been notified (Seesaw, Aladdin, school email (teachersname@lankillns.ie) Zoom,)
7. For video / Zoom calls, parental permission is implied, as the link to a video call will be communicated via the parent / guardian's email address. Essentially, by virtue of the pupil logging on to the call, permission is assumed.
8. For security reasons, passwords will be provided to families, where applicable.
9. Lankill N.S. cannot accept responsibility for the security of online platforms, in the event that they are compromised.

Digital Platforms

The school has a subscription to Seesaw, RAZ Kids, ReadTheory and Khan Academy. These may be used as learning aids at the discretion of the class teachers.

Seesaw may be used for assigning tasks / work and will be used as the pupils digital portfolio. Pupil / parent feedback may be provided by the teacher.

RAZ Kids may be used as a reading record and is also another form of digital portfolio.

Zoom may be used for communicating with pupils with Special Educational Needs.

The school also has a YouTube channel which may be used for posting learning content online

Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Students:

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

Remote Teaching and Learning Protocols for Parents

- We ask parents / guardians to ensure protocols for students are adhered to
- Check-in on their child's school work on a daily basis and talk to their child about the work being assigned
- 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 week day 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 / SNA's

- Check uploaded work each week
- Communication may only take place during normal school hours
- The normal school calendar will apply
- The following school policies apply to remote teaching and learning:
 - ⇒ Child Protection Policy
 - ⇒ Data Protection Policy
- 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.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on _____.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Principal / Secretary, Board of Management