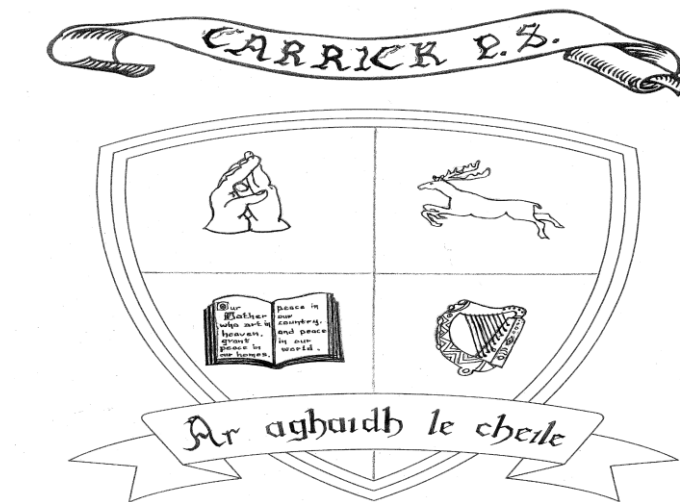


Carrick Primary School



Ar Aghaidh le Chéile: Forward Together

REMOTE LEARNING POLICY

December 2023

Vision Statement

Forward Together: “Ar Aghaigh le Chéile”.

Mission Statement

In Carrick Primary School we aim to provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment, in which to realise and celebrate the academic and non-academic potential of all our pupils. We expect our pupils to work hard and encourage parents to assist us in laying the important foundations for future learning.

Aims

In our school we aim to:

- Develop and strengthen each pupil’s understanding and love of Catholic values by promoting the Catholic ethos throughout the school;
- Create a safe, enjoyable learning environment in which effective learning is facilitated and quality teaching is provided;
- Implement all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum;
- Help our pupils to develop a positive attitude towards life and a love of learning;
- Value, respect and nurture every child in our care;
- Encourage pupils to respect themselves and others and to support and care for one another;
- Equip our children with the necessary life skills to enable them to participate in a fast changing society;
- Endorse the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of the Child and work towards the implementation of policies and practices which reflect the Convention;
- Involve the parents, Board of Governors and wider community in the life of the school and in the holistic development of the children in our care.

Rationale

This policy has been created in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It outlines procedures for teaching and learning in the event of a lockdown for a prolonged period, eg. several weeks. During any period of long term closure, staff at Carrick Primary School will continue to provide education and support for our pupils using remote learning.

Remote Learning Platforms

Our main home learning platform for all pupils is Google Classroom. This will allow staff to keep in contact in a professional and confidential manner with the pupils in their class. Teachers will be able to schedule learning in a manner that does not overwhelm our children. Teaching and learning can be tailored, changed and updated as time progresses, allowing for replication of classroom activity to the best of our ability. In all communication we will prioritise the wellbeing of our children. Google Classroom does not share any information with any outside organisations.

Teachers will work with their year-group colleague to prepare weekly activities for home learning during school closure. These learning activities, recorded messages, links and resources are posted on Google Classroom each week. These resources will reflect the various learning needs of the pupils within the class. Printed worksheets of all the activities can be collected from school if this is helpful to parents. The packs can be requested from the class teacher through Google Classroom or by emailing the class teacher or the principal (acassidy452@c2kni.net). Parents are encouraged to contact the class teacher or the Learning Support Teacher if they require any additional resources, support or advice.

The school has made all stakeholders aware of the Google Classroom protocols, as detailed within this policy.

All children and parents have log-in details for Google Classroom and for their c2k accounts. If pupils experience technical difficulties, school staff will work with families to help resolve these. It is therefore very important that parents keep in touch with the school. In addition to contact with the class teacher through Google

Classroom and email, the Principal and Vice-Principal can also be contacted by e-mail at any time for advice and support.

Principal: acassidy452@c2kni.net

Vice-Principal: aduffin497@c2kni.net

Flexibility of Learning

We realise that the circumstances that cause our school to close will affect families in a number of different ways. In our planning and expectations, we are aware of the need for flexibility from all stakeholders. We understand that:

- parents may be trying to work from home so access to technology as a family may be limited;
- parents may have two or more children trying to access technology and need to prioritise the needs of young people studying at home;
- teachers may be trying to manage their own home situation and the care/learning of their own children;
- systems may not always function as they should.

Expectations

Teaching staff will:

- share teaching and activities with their class through Google Classroom;
- continue teaching in line with current, extensive planning that is already in place throughout the school;
- accept the fact that learning remotely will be more challenging, so tasks will be set in smaller steps to allow for this;
- keep in contact with children and parents through Google Classroom, email or phone;
- reply to messages, set work and give feedback on activities during the normal teaching hours;
- contact parents if children email or post anything on Google Classroom which does not reflect the school's ethos;
- be flexible in relation to the completion of activities, understanding that the circumstances leading to our closure will affect families in different ways.

If teachers are unwell they will be covered by another teacher for the sharing of activities and, as far as possible, for the follow-up of messages and feed-back to pupils.

Children will:

- be assured that well-being is at the forefront of our thoughts and that there is a need for children to take regular breaks, to get fresh air and exercise and to maintain a reasonable balance between online engagement and offline activities;
- post or email work in a responsible and sensible manner, and as requested by the teacher;
- tell an adult straight away if there are any problems with any aspect of their home learning;
- keep their c2k log-in details and the Google Classroom code private, only sharing them with parents/carers;
- only post or email learning activities, pictures of learning activities or pictures as requested by the teacher/Principal;
- ensure a parent is present in the room when taking a photo or making a video, as requested by the teacher;
- show their work to a parent and ask them to check it, where possible, before emailing it or uploading it to Google Classroom;
- refrain from sharing content from Google Classroom on any other apps or on social media;
- only send messages and queries that are in relation to the task set by the teacher or in response to questions that the teacher may ask directly;
- only access the material shared by their teachers and ask for parental permission to use technology for anything beyond that;
- read daily, either independently or with an adult;
- consider using the school closure time to learn a new skill, to follow their own interests, to discover more about the world around them or to be creative.

Parents will:

- support their child's learning to the best of their ability;
- encourage their child to access and engage with the Google Classroom posts from their teacher;
- refrain from copying any information, messages or posts to share on social media or any other platform outside of Google Classroom;
- know they can contact the class teacher or principal through Google Classroom or email if they require hard copies of the learning packs each week, the loan of a laptop or desktop computer during lockdown or support/ advice of any kind;
- check their child's completed work and encourage the progress that is being made;
- be mindful of the mental well-being of both themselves and their child(ren) and encourage their child(ren) to take regular breaks, to play games, to get fresh air and to relax.

Conclusion:

Lockdown can be a challenging period. Our school motto is Ar Aghaigh le Chéile: Forward Together. It has never been more important for us to work as partners. This partnership consists of the school, parents and children working together, in the best interest of the child. That is our goal during periods of Home Learning. By working together we will achieve our goal.

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if required. Amendments will be made, where required, following consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

Signed: Dr A Cassidy (Principal)

Signed: Mr G Murdock (Chairperson of Board of Governors)

Date: December 2023

Review Date: December 2026

