

Safer Remote Learning

A summary of safeguarding considerations, prompts and recommended resources to support remote learning activity for Schools and Colleges

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Blackburn with Darwen - Blackpool - Lancashire

Remote Learning Considerations



Does it need to be a live-stream? Not all online delivery needs to be delivered 'live' by the class teacher. Consider a mixed approach with pre-prepared/recorded content or lessons/activities available through the school's learning platform.



School-approved accounts only: Staff should never use personal accounts for remote learning. Accounts set up by the school are consistent with safeguarding protocols and provide school management oversight and assurance. Make sure to read and abide by the platform's Terms of Service (e.g. Zoom (Free) requires users to be 16+).



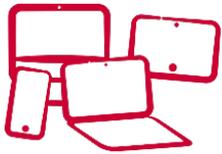
Do your homework: Ensure everyone knows how the platform works including features and agreed settings (e.g. passwords enforced, waiting rooms enabled). Consider holding a staff-only session so everyone can see how it works and ask questions.



Set expectations: Ensure students understand that offline expectations about conduct and behaviour apply to the online environment too. Do they understand remote learning implications such as where they should take place (e.g. avoid communal areas, bedrooms), how they will ask questions during the session (e.g. in-chat, raised hands) or what they can do if they want to raise a concern with you. An initial lesson or assembly may include covering these points along with related online safety discussions (e.g. live-streaming).



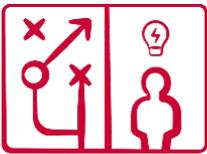
Work together: A whole-school approach involving the safeguarding team is essential. Follow best-practice and ensure at least 2 members of staff are involved whenever delivering remote learning. Establish who will cover what and when (e.g. specific support for students, progressing in-session slide content).



Suitable Access: Do all students have equipment suitable for remote learning (e.g. internet, laptops/tablets)? Consider learning styles - some students may find learning online particularly challenging or feel isolated, especially those who have additional needs or would usually have dedicated support in class.



Blended Learning: Consider opportunities such as staggered year group attendance where online learning can be used to complement or enhance classroom activity. Different platforms have various features that can support engagement and promote accessibility, such as closed/live captioning.



What is Plan B? Even with the best-laid foundations, not all sessions will go according to plan, especially when first venturing into remote learning. As confidence grows, you may wish to investigate some of the additional features of your chosen platform (e.g. interactive polls, breakout rooms) to support learning.



What if...? Be clear beforehand on what you will do if you encounter a safeguarding concern (e.g. How you would address a disclosure during an online session? What if you observed something that gave cause for concern?). Don't be distracted by the technology and follow your setting's established safeguarding procedures.



Providing support: Consider how existing provision for pupils/students to raise safeguarding concerns may be affected by absence from the classroom environment. What alternative arrangements can be put in place for pupils/students and how are these communicated?

Working together with our colleagues in the LCC School Safeguarding Team, the following pages include a starter checklist of suggested actions – further additional information can be found in the Recommended Resources section along with signposts to Other Useful Links.

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Checklist prompts



Check Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership Safer Remote Learning guidance



A preferred remote learning platform has been identified and necessary accounts have been set up with revised defaults approved by the DSL including (where appropriate):

- enforced password access; screen-sharing options updated;
- waiting rooms on; closed-captions on; participants mute on join;
- recording off for students; student-student chat disabled;



An internal staff-only familiarisation session using the chosen platform has been arranged



All staff understand that the school's code of conduct applies when teaching remotely and follow best-practice including:

- 2 staff members; staff information privacy; using school-owned devices & e-mail; wellbeing/pastoral arrangements (for staff & pupils);



The setting's Safeguarding Policy reflects remote learning activity and has clear, robust procedures in the event of a concern



All staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and escalation protocols have been reviewed to ensure effectiveness



Arrangements and expectations for remote learning have been agreed and communicated to both students & parents/carers



Arrangements for pupils/students with additional needs have been considered and necessary provision made



GDPR/Information Privacy and platform Terms of Service requirements have been considered and are followed



Existing safeguarding routes for pupils to raise concerns have been reviewed and alternative/complementary arrangements put in place



Recommended Resources



- DfE - Remote Education Good Practice:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/remote-education-good-practice/remote-education-good-practice>



- SWGfL - Safe Remote Learning:
<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/safe-remote-learning>
highly recommended



- NSPCC – Undertaking remote teaching safely:
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/news/2020/march/undertaking-remote-teaching-safely>



- SWGfL - Safeguarding & Privacy Overview:
(incl. platform factsheets)
<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/safe-remote-learning/video-conferencing-for-kids-safeguarding-and-privacy-overview>

Other useful links

- CSAP - Online Safeguarding (Schools & the Children's Workforce)
<https://www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk/online-safeguarding/schools-the-childrens-workforce/#SupportingResources>
- The Key - Coronavirus addendum child protection policy
<https://covid19.thekeysupport.com/covid-19/safeguard-and-support-pupils/policy-and-procedures/covid-19-addendum-to-child-protection-policy-model/>
- Lancashire Safeguarding - Twitter updates
<https://twitter.com/LancsSguarding>
- SWGfL - Safer Blended Learning
<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/safe-remote-learning/safer-blended-learning>
- CSAP - Making Sense of...Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
<https://www.lancshiresafeguarding.org.uk/online-safeguarding/schools-the-childrens-workforce/#MakingSense>