Blackpool Gateway Academy

Remote Teaching and Learning Policy
April 2020

Online safety is paramount in the revised delivery of teaching and learning materials during these unprecedented times. All teaching and learning activities are focussed on recall of previously delivered content. Due to differences in individual circumstances teachers are not expected to deliver new subject content at the present time. This will reduce the possible misconceptions that can arise. As a result, Gateway Academy has created a number of ways to support students, parent/carers and teachers:

- ❏ All students have been provided with access to revision and practice books
- ❏ Google classroom tasks have been set for a number of subjects where appropriate (KS2)
- ❏ Showbie accounts have been set up for some Year 6
- ❏ Use of ClassDojo is in place to allow for daily delivery of lessons across school and to allow for communication of any nature to all staff members if necessary
- ❏ Class packs have been created to allow for learning opportunities to families with no computer access
- ❏ Controlled Chrome book loan for vulnerable families for home use
- ❏ The website has been updated with a new Home Learning tab to allow for access of planned learning for the week should parents want to know or plan for resources at home in advance.

Before setting online tasks teaching staff should remind themselves of the following questions:

1. What might be going on at a child's home? Is everyone well?
2. Home schooling is a new phenomenon for the majority of people and there could be a number of siblings. How might the family be interacting at home?
3. Do children have a computer/access to the internet? What data usage limits may exist?
4. If yes, is this needed for those adults who may be working from home?
5. What are the expectations? Is it realistic that children will manage to follow their timetable each day in the current situation?
6. If we start contacting parents/carers with expectations of interaction what could change at home?
7. We have provided workbooks for children; how could we support this further and avoid overuse of worksheets ?

Revision and Practice Books
It is advised that any online tasks set by teachers enable children to make use of the revision and practice books. It would be mindful to appreciate that some children may be spending a significantly increased amount of the day in front of screens, as they seek ways to communicate with family and friends or for home entertainment purposes.Screen time activities issued through school therefore need to be limited for a range of reasons.

Google Classroom
All Google Classroom chat features should be switched off and no video teaching/live streaming of lessons will take place. Digital communications with pupils (email/submitted work) should be on a professional level in line with the Academy's Safeguarding Policy and only carried out using the official school subject email.

All KS2 children have an email address and Google account to support their studies should they be needed.

The learning issued through Google Classroom and Class Dojo provide access to a range of websites that have been selected by teaching staff in line with the school's Safeguarding Policy to support children's learning. These educational websites include a mix of resources including access to educational videos, questions, quizzes and wider revision materials.

Parents can privately message teachers in school hours if they are unsure about anything via Google Classroom or the ClassDojo app. If a teacher is unwell or uncontactable another member of staff will take over the responsibility of the responses to parents. Support staff are charged with contact to check on well being that may be affecting learning through phone calls home using the school mobiles.

Email
Email accounts will commence for use with all families who are not actively engaging with Google Classroom or Classdojo to share weekly planning. Teachers can email whole year groups of children; however, this should be limited to a maximum of once a day with planned learning and once a week with overview information

Online Education – Parents/Carers
Many parents and carers have only a limited understanding of online safety risks and issues, yet they play an essential role in the education of their children and in the monitoring/regulation of the children's on-line experiences. Parents/carers often either underestimate or do not realise how often children and young people come across potentially harmful and inappropriate material on the internet and are often unsure about what they would do about it. "There is a generational digital divide". (Byron Report).

<u>Internet Security</u>
When accessing web sites and before entering any personal information you can ensure the link to that site is secure if:
> • There is a padlock symbol in the browser window frame that appears when you try to log in or register.
> • The web address begins with 'https://'. (The 's' stands for 'secure').

Assuming these are in place you have accessed a site where the owners have been issued with a digital certificate by a trusted third party. This suggests that information being transmitted is encrypted and protected from being intercepted by their parties. However, a certificate is no guarantee that the owner of the site you are communicating with is who you intended to communicate with so always carefully check the web page address to confirm its authenticity. A skilled developer can easily clone a real website and use it for malicious or fraudulent purposes.

Here are some simple tips to follow if your common sense tells you something doesn't feel right about a site you are accessing:
- ❏ Check there is a padlock in the browser window or 'https://' at the beginning of the web address, if not do not enter personal information
- ❏ Check for an email, contact number and/or postal address – if in doubt contact them directly to ensure they are authentic
- ❏ Check the web site address – look for typo's, misspellings, digits and characters that are incorrect
- ❏ Web search any site you are suspicious about to see if others have identified it is fraudulent or malicious

This is by no means an exhaustive list of things you should be on the lookout for or steps you can take to protect yourself. Seek advice if you have any doubts!

Additional advice for staying safe online
https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/

https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/resources-parents-and-carers

S Robinson , Headteacher, March 2020.