

Online/Remote Learning Policy for Killurney N.S.

We are committed to a child-centred approach in all our work with children. We undertake to provide a safe environment and experience, where the welfare of the child is paramount.

This policy is informed by our Child Protection Policy and Guidelines, AUP and Digital Learning Plan, Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy.

Instruction Online

In facilitating access to teachers/ SNA and the curriculum for our pupils and parents, we extend the opportunities already provided in our school, to study via the internet. In providing these opportunities, we commit to adhering to the following best practices in the interest of safeguarding both pupil and staff.

Child Protection Concerns Related to Internet Tuition.

Tutoring pupils over the internet raises the following concerns in relation to child protection:

The situation introduces the student to the idea of communicating with an adult that is not part of their family group over the internet. This is not a practice that should come to be considered normal by the pupil and it should be emphasised by parents that communicating in this manner is something that requires permission and supervision;

This method of teaching invites the teacher into the pupil's home, and vice versa, without being physically present and, therefore, possibly unknown to other members of either household.

There should be an awareness on behalf of all involved that there is someone virtually present in their home and that everyone's actions need to be reflected in this. Insofar as is possible, the teaching situation should closely reflect that of teaching methodologies used in school;

Our school undertakes as part of our Child Protection Policy to report any concerns over child welfare to the DLP, Tanya O' Brien or DDLP, Rebecca Meagher who are the designated persons for child welfare matters. This relates not only to the pupil but to the welfare of any child in the location in which they are working, physically or virtually.

Parental Consent

Parental consent shall be sought for the purposes of:

Engaging with the pupil in their home, or other locations as decided, via pre recorded or live video calls (Seesaw, Zoom video calls);

Location and Supervision of Lessons

All lessons should be held in an area of the home that is open and accessible to the parents of the student. Lessons should not, for instance, take place in a bedroom with a closed door. Lessons will, however, need to be held in an area where student and tutor can concentrate on the lesson and not be unnecessarily interrupted. This may be hard to balance with younger children in the house and may take a few lessons to establish a good routine. All concerned need to show some patience in forming a routine and be willing to discuss ways to improve concentration during lessons.

A parent/guardian or other responsible adult should be available to drop in and out of the teaching space throughout the duration of the lesson but not interrupt the lesson.

Email Addresses (for Zoom classes)

All lessons and pupil-teacher/ SNA interaction on the pupil's part must take place using parent/guardian email addresses.

All lessons and pupil-teacher/ SNA interaction on the pupil's part must take place using an organisational email address that is provided by and controlled by Killurney NS.

The teacher/ SNA should not use their own personal video, telephone/email addresses for the purposes of contact with the student.

Alternative Contact Methods

All arrangements / re-arrangements to lessons must be made through a parent in writing. Pupil and teacher are not to communicate via alternative video / electronic methods other than specifically agreed with the parent and approved by the school.

Any and all communications between pupil and teacher/SNA must be fully controlled by or accessible to parents and the school.

Grounds for Concern

The grounds for concern laid out in the school's Child Protection Policy shall apply in all lessons given over the internet and shall apply to all children in the pupil's home. This includes things that happen in the background or off-camera.

If a parent has any concerns about the process or relationship between teacher/ SNA and pupil, or pupil-pupil interactions during online instruction they should contact the principal(DLP) immediately to discuss the situation. The school undertakes to investigate all complaints or concerns regarding in line with our Child Protection Policy, Code of Behaviour, AUP and Anti-Bullying policy, as applicable.

Raising Concerns

Concerns for the welfare of pupils will be dealt with in line with our Child Protection Policy. The DLP is Tanya O' Brien and may be contacted at killurneyns@gmail.com The DDLP is Rebecca Meagher and may be contacted at rmeagherkillurney@gmail.co

Signed : Gerard Marshall (Chairperson)

Tanya O' Brien (Principal)

Date: 25/03/2021