**Aberdeenshire Council Education and Children’s Services: Remote Learning Proposal**

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**1. Introduction and Context**

Remote teaching is the process whereby, using IT, (and video-conferencing in particular) a teacher teaches a group of children and young people located in an establishment different from the teacher’s own: this could be another school or pupils’ homes.

**2. The Vision, Rationale and Fundamental Principles of Remote Teaching**

Children and young people in Aberdeenshire, within the structure of blended learning, will continue receive education through face-to-face teaching, supplemented and enhanced by digital technology, where appropriate.

 However, remote teaching has the potential to ensure greater equity and increased choice for young people, particularly during the current Covid-19 pandemic and the forthcoming shift towards blended learning models. In response to Covd-19, but also looking towards the educational landscape beyond, remote teaching can add value to what is already in place in our secondary settings in the Senior Phase by offering a wider range of subjects and vocational opportunities through distance learning and remote teaching, to meet the expectations of national education policy drivers such as Curriculum for Excellence, the National Improvement Framework and Developing the Young Workforce. In primary it can support wider access to partners (from industry, subject specific secondary colleagues and guest speakers, for example) who can engage remotely in learning and teaching activities. However, the primary concern of this proposal is to address the immediate challenges posed by Covid-19, both in the present and in relation to the evolving blended learning model that is emerging and will be implemented from August onwards. Enabling video-conferencing through the approved Glow infrastructure (and using the Microsoft Office 365 and Google Classroom platforms) will offer schools / staff the opportunity to engage, face-to-face, with pupils and in so doing, support both their academic needs but, critically, their mental health and wellbeing.

 The remote teaching experience will supplement and enhance the blended learning models that schools will adopt, from August 2020.

 Remote teaching experiences in Aberdeenshire will be evaluated and reviewed with the views of children and young people, staff, parents and carers sought.

As per guidance from teaching unions, no teacher should be expected to carry out any online teaching with which they feel uncomfortable, or in the absence of agreed protocols.

**3. How Does Digital Technology Enhance Learning and Teaching?**

The Scottish Government’s 2016 Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy sets out aspects of learning and teaching opportunities with digital technology.





**4. Technologies to Be Used**

 Glow technologies are the only medium of choice for remote teaching and online learning that involves video conferencing (specifically Google Meet currently and Teams at a date to be confirmed), with both staff and pupils able to engage using a wide variety of devices.

**5. Practicalities and Protocols Around Remote Teaching:**

Teachers will not be expected to be working with a class face-to-face in their own setting whilst teaching to groups of children and young people in another setting.

For all remote teaching experiences, children and young people, and their parents and carers, will be informed in advance, and required to sign an acceptable use policy that outlines what the expectations for engaging in remote learning are.

A risk assessment will be in place for remote learning and teaching experiences.

Roles and responsibilities for the remote teacher will be clarified ahead of any remote teaching experiences. This is in the guidance that has been produced to support those staff who wish to engage. This will include safeguarding advice and protocols.