



Statement of Online Learning Provision

At Malvern St James we use digital devices as tools for effective learning in the classroom.

Online learning was a vital tool for teaching and learning and for pastoral support during the COVID-19 pandemic and it took the form of either remote learning, or online learning.

However, we know that face-to-face lessons are the most effective way of teaching and learning since body language and social cues can be interpreted by both teacher and pupils and interaction is therefore much easier. We are also aware of the negative impacts of constant access to digital devices, particularly on mental health and the need to “switch off” from information and messaging and we want to support the wellbeing for both pupils and staff.

During periods of lockdown - **remote learning** (the whole School learning from a distance made possible by online platforms such as Teams) became the norm. After lockdown and on return to School, **online learning** (individual pupils accessing online resources and, *in some circumstances*, being called into face-to-face lessons) enabled some to access lessons if they were unable to return to school due to travel restrictions or if they needed to isolate or quarantine.

As we have now moved into a post pandemic period, we have reviewed the circumstances under which online learning can operate to provide greater clarity.

The **default position is that all pupils should be in school for face-to-face learning** during the school day and that the use of online learning will only be authorised for exceptional circumstances, as detailed below:

Whole School remote learning

Will be provided when the School site is closed for learning due to pandemic, extreme weather, heating failure etc.

Online learning

Will be provided to individual pupils:

- When a pupil has to isolate or is in quarantine due to COVID but is otherwise well;
- When pupils have a long period of time off school due to a serious illness - access to learning will be agreed in conjunction with medical experts.

Examples of when access to online learning will *not* be available to pupils:

When pupils are too ill to be in school due to, for example, sickness and diarrhoea, heavy cold.

When pupils are away from school during term-time without authorisation from the Headmistress.

When pupils have a medical appointment during the School day and are at home either before or after the appointment.

If they are too unwell to be in school, they are too unwell to learn. If they are unwell, pupils need to rest and recover; pre-pandemic, pupils would have spent time off school recuperating and then caught up with work when well enough to do so once they had returned, and this should still be the case.

MSJ has generous holiday provision, therefore all holidays should be booked outside of term-time. International pupils should remain in school until the end of term unless there are significant quarantine restrictions in place.

Please book routine medical and dental appointments at the beginning or end of the school day wherever possible, or better still, during the School holiday period.

In all circumstances, requests for absence in termtime must be sent via headspa@malvernstjames.co.uk