

# Mountmellick Community School



## Blended and Distance Learning Policy

### **Introduction and Scope of this Policy:**

This document sets out the policy of Mountmellick Community School in respect of the procedures and practices that the school wishes to advise students to follow with regard to Blended and Distance Learning.

### **Relationship to school's Mission / Vision / Aims:**

Mountmellick Community School's Mission Statement is as follows:

*Aim / Vision: "To provide a caring community, which will foster the development of whole people, empowered to lead effective lives in the wider society.*

*To this end, we provide opportunities*

*To promote the fulfilment of academic potential,  
While fostering healthy emotional adjustment,  
Encouraging growth in inter-personal skills and self-esteem.*

*We, also, provide opportunities to promote*

*Physical,  
Creative,  
And Spiritual Development,  
While training pupils in responsibility and discipline,  
At the same time celebrating our school and its successes".*

*School Motto: "Respect Is Our Strength".*

This Blended and Distance Learning Policy is another important framework within which "the development of whole people, empowered to lead effective lives in the wider society" is enhanced in our school. The community of the school works in a holistic manner to ensure that dependence is gradually replaced by responsibility for self, society and the world. The dignity of each student, staff member and parent / guardian is honoured and reflected in school policies and structures, including this policy.

This policy is informed by the school's Mission Statement which commits us to preparing all students for the challenges of adolescent and adult life and to respecting the dignity, worth and individuality of every member of the school community. The school's role in the development of young people supports and is enriched by the active participation of teachers and parents / guardians in many aspects of students' lives.

### **Rationale:**

We have devised a new Blended and Distance Learning Policy to reflect the changed circumstances brought about by Covid-19 and the significant increase in the use of technology to continue learning.

**Goals:**

- To inform parents of the policies implemented in the case of school closure.
- To assist in the continuity of teaching and learning during such a difficult time.
- To inform students of what is expected of them during this difficult time should the school close.
- To inform teachers of best practice in Blended and Distance Learning.

**The list of applications that will be used for distance learning will primarily be:**

- Google Classroom
- Edmodo
- Teams
- Zoom

**The planned approach should the school be closed will include:**

- Students will be taught as per timetable in school.
- Normal school rules apply.
- 1hr cases will move to 50 mins to allow for changeover, for example a class scheduled for 10 am on the normal school based timetable will begin at 10.05am and finish 10.55 am.
- Students must wear a school crested top and be sitting at a desk/table for all classes.
- Students are advised to set up a technical background.
- Students will be expected to be on line from 9am - 4pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and from 9a.m.- 1.20p.m. on Fridays, excluding lunch & break times
- Students are to turn off notifications on their devices to allow for a break from the school environment outside of school hours.
- It may be necessary in some instances to upload work outside of these hours.
- Positive student behaviour is expected at all times, as per any school day, and the Code of Behaviour will be followed and sanctions imposed if necessary.
- For GDPR and other purposes, students may not record any portion of any classes.
- Only enrolled students may log on to any MCS classes or use the platform to contact teachers or access any MCS notes etc.
- Teachers will endeavour to replicate the school class as much as possible, students may be asked to read, participate in activities and be tested within the class time. Homework may be corrected in the usual fashion with teachers asking students for answers to be read out or displayed during the class.

*Ratified by the BOM: 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020*

*Review date: No later than 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021*