



POLICY	DISTANCE LEARNING AND ONLINE EDUCATION POLICY
APPROVED	APRIL 2020
REVIEWED	
VERSION	1
SCHOOLS	PRESCHOOL & PREPARATORY SCHOOL

BACKGROUND

This policy was necessitated by the COVID-19 Lockdown and School Closures implemented in March 2020 by the South African National Assembly. The educational development of the pupils at Broadacres Academy is fundamentally based on teacher/child interaction in the classroom environment and with this not being possible, there needs to be a solution for the delivery of the curriculum and for learning to continue.

LEGISLATION

This policy is aligned to the following legislation:

1. Broadacres Academy General Policies Document
2. National Curriculum Statement (CAPS)
3. South African Schools Act No. 84 of 1996

GENERAL

General Objectives:

1. Create clear channels of communication with parents that are coordinated to avoid contradictions and misinformation when communicating with parents, pupils and the wider community
2. Maintain the Broadacres Academy community feeling of care and support
3. Address parents' unique challenges around: home schooling, financial crisis, psychological wellbeing
4. Keep teachers connected and engaged with pupils through various means
5. Deliver an educational service as thoroughly as possible
6. Assess the implications of time lost on the curriculum delivery
7. Determine how the lost time can be recovered once schools open

Preschool Objectives:

- 1) Teachers develop a daily activity schedule to include:
 - a) Physical development- large motor skills and small motor skills
 - b) Social development- helping the children get along with others, language skills, self- control and resolving conflict.
 - c) Emotional development- helps the children to understand and manage their feelings and those of others. builds self-esteem and perseverance
 - d) Language and literacy development- helps the child to understand and communicate through listening and talking
 - e) Thinking/cognitive skills-problem solving and understanding the world around them.
 - f) Sensory integration- allowing the children to explore and understand all their senses and where they are in space.
- 2) Junior and Senior Preschool phases to deliver the daily schedule in various ways that covers the developmental needs listed above. The structure will vary per age groups, but could include a combination of the following:
 - a) Circle time
 - b) Art activity
 - c) Physical Activity
 - d) Sensory activity
 - e) Story Time

- 3) Ensure various means of delivering activities and educational content to pupils and families:
 - a) Investigate and implement suitable online platforms for preschool
 - b) Hardpacks, where deemed suitable and feasible, delivered to homes – age appropriate activity boxes
 - c) Class WhatsApp groups for visual interaction with teachers
- 4) Teachers will take reasonable steps to be available via telephone, WhatsApp video call or messages Monday- Friday between 8am and 4pm.

Preparatory School Objectives:

- 1) Deliver curriculum content and objectives on second term work and new concepts
- 2) Set up online learning platform using Microsoft Teams
- 3) Set up online reading and mathematics platforms
- 4) Create the space and tools for children to be able to drive their own learning and maintain curiosity around learning
- 5) Teachers create a more structured daily schedule for their classes using Microsoft Teams and WhatsApp Groups. The focus will be on new curriculum concepts and these will vary per grade. The focus will be on the main learning areas.
- 6) Teachers to use live stream when needed, video lessons, worksheets and other resources on apps and education links
- 7) Relook at assessment model and reporting structure for mid-year at this stage
- 8) Get parent buy-in and ensure they assist children at home by:
 - a. Creating a structured routine at home
 - b. Set up a sound learning environment for the children
 - c. Providing access to internet and Microsoft Teams
 - d. Helping children feedback to teachers
 - e. Setting a realistic amount of work to be completed daily, rather than overloading parents & children
- 9) Create support platform for parents who need:
 - a) Guidance on curriculum issues
 - b) IT support

Parent Responsibilities:

Parents will need to ensure:

- 1) School guidelines per grade are adhered to
- 2) Create a learning environment for the child
- 3) Daily time allocation per child is followed
- 4) Providing IT support and enough data
- 5) Assessment tasks are completed and submitted

General:

- 1) The daily time allocation for distance learning activities will vary between 2 – 4 hours, depending on grade and necessity.
- 2) Create activities that can be sent home via various online platforms.
- 3) Activities to be in line with the fundamental development stage of the learners.
- 4) The activities are in line with the Broadacres Academy Curriculum Policy.
- 5) Online reading and mathematics programmes utilised to continue foundational development of these skills and enhance the learners' knowledge and understanding of the key principles.
- 6) Broadacres Academy will take every precaution to limit exposure to harmful online content while utilising the platforms we deem suitable for the learners.
- 7) This policy will be utilised in conjunction with all the other applicable school policies during this time.
- 8) Teachers will be available to assist and do online activities at reasonable times, also dependent on their personal needs within their own family structures.
- 9) Assessment and reporting structures will change to accommodate the distance learning model.

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