



Blairmore Nursery School Learning at Home Policy

Remote learning: To ensure a consistent, high quality learning experience for all pupils, providing positive interactions, feedback and valuable support leading to pupil progress.

Rationale:

In December 2020 the First Minister announced that Early Learning and Childcare Settings should provide remote learning from January 2021. This policy sets out to share expectations and establish a collective understanding of what learning at home means for our ELC community for this period of closure and/or further closures.

Aim:

This remote learning policy aims to:

- set out the expectations for all members of our ELC community with regards to learning at home.
- ensure consistency in the approach to learning at home for children that supports continuity of learning.
- establish how we will implement and quality assure our learning at home offer,
- provide clarity as to how our ELC's approach to learning at home links to guidelines from both the council and Education Scotland.

What is learning at home (remote learning)?

*'Remote learning is learning that is **directed** by practitioners and **undertaken** by children and young people who are not physically with the practitioner while instruction is taking place.'*

Education Scotland January 2021

What will learning at home (remote learning) look like for learners?

"Learners should not engage in online learning for the entirety of the school day. Learning may include activities such as research tasks, project work, practical opportunities, discussions and other activities that can be carried out away from a digital device."

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Learning at Home should continue to be based on the pedagogy of play and offer a range of opportunities that can be undertaken both indoors and out. It should reflect the curriculum offer that would be available within the setting.

Blairmore Nursery School learners can expect:

- Curriculum offer
We will provide learning experiences weekly that will promote literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing as well as other areas of the curriculum
- Each week we will prepare learning packs containing the following:
 - 📄 A nursery rhyme activity sheet with links to various areas of the curriculum.
 - 📄 Literacy and/ or numeracy activity sheets relating to the nursery rhyme.
 - 📄 An information leaflet for parents with information on play experiences and links to activities for the “Story of the Week”
 - 📄 A variety of creative resources/ booklet for drawing
 - 📄 A Bookbug information leaflet to accompany the online weekly Bookbug session
- Pre-school numeracy development
Numicon learning packs will be distributed to pre-school children. Weekly activities will be recorded by our Early Years Graduate to be shared with parents and children.
Pre-school literacy development
- Blooms Story packs will be distributed to pre-school. A weekly story will be recorded and shared with parents and children.
- The Family Support worker will record a weekly Bookbug session that will be uploaded to our YouTube account via the nursery website and Twitter. Weekly follow up activities will also be recorded and uploaded. These demonstrate “Play in action”. Links to additional activities will be shared on Twitter and the nursery website
- Staff will share favourite stories online.
- Keyworkers will contact parents in their group every fortnight to catch up, support learning and discuss access to learning packs
- Keyworkers will have a meeting with the children in their group every 3 weeks on WebEx
- The Family Support Worker makes regular pastoral calls to families and access to information is available on Twitter and the nursery website.

What is the role of parents?

“Parents and carers want the very best for their children. It is important to stress that, in a period of remote learning (learning at home), parents and carers are not expected to be teachers (ELC Practitioners) and we understand that many will be juggling work and childcare.”

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At Blairmore Nursery School we want our parents to have fun playing with their children and develop their understanding of how important play is to a child’s development. We understand that many of our parents are supporting older children in remote learning and we provide activities that our children can completely independently. Our home learning activities support this as:

- The activity packs contain a variety of information to support parents in promoting play and learning at home
- Our online sessions demonstrate play activities that can be easily replicated at home at no cost

- Our Family Support Worker shares information with parents on the importance of daily routine in a child's life and the benefits that brings to the whole family
- We promote the Health and Wellbeing of all the family by providing activities that can support children and the whole family to keep bodies and minds healthy,
- Parents can access the activities on Twitter and the nursery website
- Regular emails keep parents up to date with what is happening in the nursery.
- Members of the management team, keyworkers and Family Support Worker all have a role in supporting families. Regular telephone calls check in with parents support this.
- 1-1 meetings are also available for parents on WebEx with the Family Support Worker
- "A cuppa and a chat" sessions for parents are also available weekly on WebEx
- Our website and Twitter are regularly updated with links to other agencies and services where parents can go for support.
- Parents can contact the nursery by telephone or email if they require support or assistance

What is the role of staff?

'Class teacher (ELC Practitioner) retains responsibility for planning and organising children's and young people's learning, with learning supported by parents and carers'

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- Early Years Education and Childcare Officers will
 - Support children who are attending the Hub
 - Plan activities and engage in producing home learning packs
 - Check -in regularly with families in their group
 - Plan and implement group activities on WebEx for their group
 - Monitor the engagement in the home learning packs during calls to parents
- Early Years Support Assistants
 - Support children who are attending the Hub
 - Make up home learning packs

All staff will engage in a variety of CLPL that has been set by SLT when they are not working in the hub. Staff complete weekly evaluations and return them to SLT.

How will we encourage engagement?

It is important that we track families' engagement in learning at home to identify families who may need additional support to access the learning at home provision. As well as this tracking engagement in learning at home this will be a key function of our safeguarding responsibilities to children as well as supporting family well-being.

- All staff discuss home learning with parents during check-in calls. Any follow up is passed to SLT for further action.

- Information is distributed in written and video formats offering choice to parents in how they wish to access information to support home learning.
- Parents are reminded to telephone the nursery if their child is ill to allow us to monitor attendance in line with Council policy.

How will we ensure quality?

- SLT are involved in the production of home learning packs. All materials both written and video are quality assured before they are distributed.
- Questionnaires will be issued to parents on a four weekly basis to gather information on the accessibility of the home learning resources and the impact they are having on learning.
- Questionnaires will be issued to staff on a four weekly basis to monitor the impact of CLPL
- Learning at home will be an area of focus within the annual Standards and Quality Report.
- SLT will engage with the Council's Education Services team including focused meetings about learning at home.
- Use of audit tools provided by the Council's Education Services team.

Further reading / related documents:

- Inverclyde's Remote Learning Guidance, January 2021
- Inverclyde digital safeguarding guidance, revised January 2021
- [Education Scotland Remote Learning](#)
- Maximising Engagement during lockdown – Inverclyde Attainment Challenge 2021
- [Learning at Home](#) – Parentzone Scotland resources
- [Read, Write, Count](#) - a national initiative which aims to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of Scotland's children.
- [PlayTalkRead](#) - encourages parents and families to include easy and fun reading, writing and counting activities in their everyday lives.