Newark Nursery SchoolA close - up of a toy

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Learning at Home Policy

**Vision:**

At Newark Nursery School, we understand the need to continually deliver high quality education, including during periods of remote learning whether for an individual child or for many children. We recognise the importance of maintaining high expectations in all areas of nursery life and ensuring that all our children have access to the learning resources and support they need to succeed.

**We are working to help our learners to stay safe, stay learning. We are a Rights Respecting Nursery. Article 28, every child has the right to an education. Article 31, every child has the right to play.**

**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 Newark 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 Newark 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 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.”*

*Educations Scotland January 21*

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.

In Newark Nursery School learners can expect:

• Plans are in place so that all children have access to high quality learning resources both indoors and outdoors, that will support them in all aspects of the early level curriculum especially Health and Wellbeing, Literacy skills and Numeracy skills.

• Offer a range of types of resources (independent working and adult supported working) so that working parents can be accommodated. These will include monthly learning packs with a variety of learning activities that can be used both independently and with an adult. Daily Challenges on our Twitter Page including Rhyme Time, Story Time, Singing, Recipe of the Week and Challenge of the Week.

• Staff to do our best to protect children from the risks associated with using devices connected to the internet. Our Twitter page remains private and can only be accessed by requesting permission from administrator of account. (nursery staff). Our You Tube Channel is set for children’s viewing only.

• Ensure robust safeguarding measures continue to be in effect during the period of remote learning. This will be done through weekly check in with all parents via telephone with key workers. Group call (text message) and Email with Head Teacher and telephone calls.

• Ensure staff, parent, and pupil data remains secure and is not lost or misused. Any data shared electronically will always be password protected.

• Ensure all children have the provision they need to complete their work to the best of their ability, and to remain happy, healthy, and supported during periods of remote learning. We ensure equity, and deliver learning packs to all children, no child misses out.

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.”*

*Education Scotland January 2021*

* Staff will provide comprehensive instructions and planning so that parents can effectively support their child in their play and learning. Making the learning fun and using everyday tasks as ideal learning opportunities to share with children.
* Staff will discuss weekly through their check in with parents the child’s Personal Learning Plan, what support may be needed and next steps for the child. Staff will also use this time to develop relationships and support parents to access opportunities for learning and support from our Local Authority and Education Scotland.
* Via our Twitter page and our website, we will sign post parents to other learning opportunities and useful websites that can offer support.
* All our contact details are readily available on our website, newsletters and emailed and sent in Group Call to parents.
* Our remote service will be reviewed by SMT using Questionnaires to staff and parents during this academic term.

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’*

*Education Scotland January 2021*

All our staff are key workers and are therefore working. However, with the reduction in our numbers and for Health and Safety reasons we will operate a rota system with staff working between our building and home. A member of the SMT will always be present in the building during operating times. When staff are working from home they will engage in professional learning through a variety of methods. Our link Educational Psychologist is Karen MacPherson who is able to support both staff and parents. Karen can initially be contacted on her email address to arrange a telephone consultation and Hazel can facilitate this for parents. All conversations with Karen are confidential.

* Professional Reading, Policies, Procedures etc.
* Online courses, promoting their Continuous Professional Learning.
* Research: Early years is a fast-moving environment with updated information and research.
* Keeping paperwork and tracking information updated
* Take part in professional dialogue through our online group chat.
* Provide and prepare home learning tasks for twitter and you tube.

Staff working in the building will be responsible for the children attending the nursery, plan activities, and record children’s progress to share with all other staff.

How will we encourage engagement?

Through the excellent relationships we have with our Children and parents, all our staff are very attuned to the needs of our families. Almost all our families are on our twitter page and encourage our families to share their learning with us. Through our learning packs we have ensured that they contain everything necessary for each activity and we keep in mind that not all children have the same opportunities and facilities at home.

We have a robust attendance procedure in place and even at times of remote learning we continue to monitor our children’s health and wellbeing through our weekly check in’s with both key workers and SMT.

How will we ensure quality?

At Newark Nursery School we pride ourselves on providing the best service possible to our children and families. At times of remote learning we will continue to do our very best.

All our staff will be involved in keeping our policies and procedures to a high standard, we will continue to liaise closely with Inverclyde Education Service Team and follow the guidance they and the Scottish Government provide for us.

Further reading / related documents**:**

* Inverclyde’s Remote Learning Guidance, January 2021
* Inverclyde digital safeguarding guidance, revised January 2021
* [Education Scotland Remote Learning](https://education.gov.scot/media/hblh4yy0/cerg-remote-learning-080121.pdf)
* Maximising Engagement during lockdown – Inverclyde Attainment Challenge 2021
* [Learning at Home](https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home) – Parentzone Scotland resources
* [Read, Write, Count](http://www.readwritecount.scot/) - a national initiative which aims to improve the literacy and numeracy  skills of Scotland’s children.
* [Play Talk Read](http://playtalkread.scot/) - encourages parents and families to include easy and fun reading, writing and counting activities in their everyday lives.

Consultation with our staff and parents in our Newark Community took place w.b. 25th January 2021 for this policy ( we had 15 replies to our draft policy) and will be reviewed as and when appropriate.