

Gibshill Children's Centre
Playing and Learning at Home Policy (ELC)

Remote learning: vision for continuity of learning' statement

In these unprecedented times we are committed to providing normality and routine for our children, families and the community. Our aim is to ensure that we as an early learning and childcare team are as accessible to our stakeholders as possible to offer support in play, learning and development holistically with a focus on Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy. Building, establishing and continuing positive relationships built on trust, respect, empathy, warmth and love is key to this.

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.

In Gibshill Children's Centre learners can expect:

- Weekly Play and Learning at Home packs (including Health and Wellbeing, Literacy, Numeracy and Book of the Block).
- Daily/ Weekly Play and Learning challenges.
- Weekly Lending Library.
- Wellbeing Wednesdays for children and adults.
- At least 2 stories recorded by staff and shared per week.
- Recorded activities i.e. making playdough, loose parts play.
- Bi weekly checkins through phonecalls.
- Regular dialogue as and when required with individual families (play, learning, development and wellbeing support offered as and when required).

At Gibshill we are committed to supporting and providing play, learning and wellbeing and ensuring that this offer is as universal as possible. To ensure equity we utilise emails, twitter, Learning Journals, Phonecalls, physical copies of materials, face to face discussions and support (when required), drop ins (Packs and Lending Library).

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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- Ensuring that all activities are fun and enjoyable for all.
- Utilise emails, twitter, Learning Journals, Phonecalls, physical copies of materials, face to face discussions and support (when required), drop ins (Packs and Lending Library) to ensure 2 way communication.
- A member of the Gibshill Children's Centre team will always be available within the centre's operating hours. If a child, parent/ carer wishes to speak to a specific member of the team then this can be arranged. Depute Head of Centre also checks twitter regularly.
- All contact details can be found on our website and on the weekly Play and Learning at Home sheet.
- Links to supports:
Nursery Website - <http://gibshillfamily.inverclyde.sch.uk/>

Learning Journals - <https://gibshill.yourlearningjournals.co.uk/Login.aspx>

Nursery Twitter - <https://twitter.com/GibshillCC>

Nursery YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5f5oTA6-mbNx_nDKRpylpQ

Inverclyde Council - <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/>

- We value the opinions and feelings of all stakeholders and continually reflect on and review our practice. This is done in small and large groups and individually through professional dialogue and self-evaluation both face to face, virtually and electronically. Our families will have opportunities to feedback to us formally through questionnaires. There are also opportunities to do this informally at any time and we ask that this is done through twitter, learning journals, emails, Phonecalls etc.

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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- Each week a rota is created where all staff are allocated tasks to complete. This work is then submitted to SLT on a Thursday and the Playing and Learning at Home pack for the following week is created.
- SLT have created a rota and all staff are timetabled to work in the Gibshill Hub. Current guidance, restrictions and the health and wellbeing of staff are always considered.
- Each week a 'Staff Working from Home' sheet is created. This includes tasks to be completed for the centre and the centre's strategic improvement plan by everyone. Other possible areas for research and staff development are included and added to on a weekly basis. All staff have the choice whether to use this list or follow their own interests and research. A 'Working from Home Record' has been created and staff must complete and send this to SLT by a Friday lunchtime. This will then inform the following weeks plans.

The whole team is expected to maintain regular contact through face to face conversation, email, twitter, whatsapp groups, Phonecalls messaging etc. It is important to ensure that these interactions are planned, responsive and everyone is involved when and where possible.

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.

- On a weekly basis SLT track and record statistics on levels of engagement. We then take a closer look at these to identify key messages, strengths and areas for development. A short weekly report is also compiled to supplement the statistics we have gathered.
- We will try our very best to continue to offer the support that we always have regardless of Covid 19.
- We have asked Parents let us know when their child isn't able to learn at home due to illness.

How will we ensure quality?

- SLT review all resources and materials that are shared and give feedback to staff when required.
- All staff are involved in professional dialogue and share good practice with each other.
- All staff research a variety of materials and resources to ensure play and learning activities on offer are fun, active, relevant and stimulating.
- We are always looking for feedback from all stakeholders and try to be as responsive as possible to any questions, comments etc to ensure high quality play and learning opportunities are offered.
- All staff will be involved in the Self Evaluation process using HGIOELC.
- Questionnaires will be shared with staff, children and parents/ carers to ascertain views on play and home learning at Gibshill.
- Commentary on learning at home within the annual Standards and Quality Report.
- Engagement 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.