



Learning Journals Policy

Rationale

All children have a right to an education. As part of this, at an age and stage appropriate level, children should know what they are learning to do and why, and their next steps in learning. In order to ensure that this is done in a relatable and useful way we use a variety of strategies to document, share and track pupil progress in their learning journeys. This also enables pupils to share their successes with their families.

At Strathburn Primary School we are consistently developing our approach to profiling children's learning. As part of this we are using electronic profiling and will be using Learning Journals within the school and early years setting to support the profiling of children's learning. Learning Journals is an online tool that allows staff and children to engage with parents and carers to create an online environment which:

- enables learning progress to be shared with families relating to Curriculum for Excellence
- is a tool to support teacher reporting and assessment and support professional judgement
- encourages pupils to aim for high standards by providing opportunities to share their learning beyond the classroom.
- creates a meaningful home-school connection around learning progress and next steps.

Under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), in order for a child to use Learning Journals, Strathburn School has to obtain parental consent. In signing a consent form parents/carers are allowing Learning Journals to use their child's avatar in order to be able to associate work like photographic evidence of work, videos or voice recordings with their account. Further information about their strong privacy promises can be found online. It is the parent's responsibility to read this privacy policy and on completing the Microsoft consent form for Strathburn School or Early Years setting it is assumed that this has been read.

Once consent has been received from a parent/carer a member of staff will then set up the Learning Journal account for the pupil and this will be associated with their class or group. This will follow the guidelines and instructions given by the school.

Pupils and staff will share examples of learning, like photos, videos, or drawings and this will be linked to curricular outcomes and at times will share next steps. We will not use photos of pupils when sharing work online, all photographic and video examples will be of pupil work/activities only.





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Teachers will approve new journal items uploaded by pupils which can then be shared with parents and carers via the app. Teachers may also use Learning Journals to post whole class messages.

All individual communication continues to be carried out via the school office.

Over time, Learning Journals builds an organised, digital portfolio of each student's learning, accessible via iOS app or on the web. Each child has their own individual unique journal charting some of their learning progression.

Expectations

As this is new software for staff to become familiar with there will be training required and staff will need to develop their confidence with utilising this tool effectively and in a way which is useful to the teaching and learning happening within their context. Full practice will take time to develop and this policy will therefore require to be reviewed as practicalities are. Initially, each term, every pupil will have at least one observation which is linked to the curriculum for the areas of literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. This observation will also have next steps outlined.

As proficiency and skills progress there may be observations linked to other curricular areas. There should also be a minimum of one activity shared each fortnight which outlines the learning taking place, and this may be added for a group of children or by the individual child themselves as a means of sharing learning.

