
LEARNING JOURNALS – PARENT INFORMATION

SEPT 2019



WHY DO WE HAVE PUPIL REPORTS FROM SCHOOL? WHO ARE THEY FOR? WHAT IS THE VALUE?

Reporting has two main purposes.

- It provides clear, positive and constructive feedback about children's and young people's learning and progress, looking back on what has been achieved against standards and expectations.
- It creates an agenda for discussions between learners and those teaching and supporting them about their next steps in learning.

Reporting provides a summary of what the learner has aimed for; describes progress in terms of what the learner has achieved so far; and sets out for the learner, parents and staff what needs to be done to ensure continued progress and improved standards of achievement.

WHAT MAKES REPORTING PROCESS PURPOSEFUL?

- Reporting and assessment taking place as part of ongoing learning, periodically and at points of transition.
- Reporting and assessment involving learners and staff regularly gathering, reflecting on and evaluating evidence of learning to describe learners' progress and to identify steps.
- The focus is no longer on 'how fast' learners progress and achieve the levels since this can lead to superficial approaches to learning. Progress is defined in terms of 'how much' and 'how well' as well as of learners' rate of progress.



CURRENT REPORTING PROCESSES - POSITIVES

- Purple Portfolio – Annual summative written report-reflection on learning over the year
- Key Milestones Jotter/ folder – sample of learners work and evidence of learning
- Meet the Teacher – Class Teacher can outline planned learning for the year ahead
- Parent Consultations x2 – attainment, progress, successes and next steps in learning are discussed
- Coffee Mornings – learning agenda focus



MOVING FORWARD.

- Learning Journals—Annual summative written report replaced by year of observations & a final attainment and achievement learning journal observation
- Key Milestones Jotter/ folder – sample of learners work and evidence of learning
CONTINUES
- Meet the Teacher – Class Teacher can outline planned learning for the year ahead
CONTINUES
- Parent Consultations x2 – attainment, progress, successes and next steps in learning are discussed
CONTINUES
- Coffee Mornings – learning agenda focus
CONTINUES

REPORTING & ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK TO IMPACT ON FUTURE LEARNING?

- The assessment / reporting process has to be central to learning & teaching. This is recognised as excellent practice.
- Dialogue with learner(s) about learning is key and builds on previous strong practice at Cramond. Children need to be clear about the purpose of learning – the skills they are developing and how they can apply this learning.
- Focused assessment activities are already part of excellent day to day teaching – so reporting does not detract from learning process but enhance it.



LEARNING JOURNALS – WHAT ARE THEY?

Learning Journals are an online platform for recording and reporting on a child's learning and achievements.

Using Learning Journals, we can:

- **Easily create observations** - In just a couple of minutes staff can create a high quality, in depth observation documenting a child's learning.
- **Share and engage with parents** - Being able to immediately share these observations with parents gives a huge sense of pride and ownership over their child's learning.
- **Track and monitor progress** - With no additional effort staff can quickly see progress in learning, ability and coverage over many curricula and frameworks at individual child level or as part of a group.



LEARNING JOURNALS – THE BENEFITS

- All Specialist staff, support staff, SLT & part time staff can contribute.
- Teachers can use general comments to share learning for year group and track curriculum coverage. This will greatly assist continuity & progression of learning. Group & Individual comments allow curriculum tracking & planning.
- It is more eco friendly & cost effective – Parents can download PDF anytime.
- It fits with our digital strategy and allows parents to be actively involved in learning anytime and anywhere. This will be as and when – not summative.
- Excellent practice can be showcased & celebrated. Staff continue to work collaboratively and engage in professional dialogue
- Wider achievement of pupils can be tracked – parents and pupils can add learning from home. Staff can track Cramond All star and pupil voice groups.
- SLT and staff can use as basis of learning conversations for self-evaluations, pupils can share with peers and in second level make observation on own and others learning (moderated by parents before it is published)

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM LEARNING JOURNALS?

Learning journals are NOT

- Facebook scrapbook for your child
- Daily diary
- Form of two way communication



Learning journals are

- Current snapshot of learning
- Window into your child's classroom & learning experience to allow you to talk/support and be involved at the time the learning is happening.



PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

- Regularly check your Learning Journals – email alerts are not always prompt. You may comment on the observations and like them. Use this as a discussion tool with your child.
- Be aware some are class learning posts and some are group or individual. All will be personalised for your child.
- News from Home allows you to share learning by your child at home with school staff. This is really helpful for staff to have discussion with your child.
- You can support learning at home based on learning identified in the observations.



LEARNING JOURNALS ADMIN & FAQ

- Please sign and return agreement – issued school wide. Photo permission needed 😊
- You can only see your child.
- Set up is time consuming – launch end of September. Partnership with school app & Twitter to find out more about learning in school.
- PE, Outdoor Learning, Modern Languages, Senior Leadership Team, SFL and other staff will also be posting class/school /group news or observations.
- Archive from nursery / import and export to other schools
- PDF – print
- Family members access
- Value as a tool – build ways learners to look at and reflect. P7 to share feedback moderated by staff on others.
- Feedback to Yasmeen Naeem....Work in progress – refine & develop staff skill & confidence. Link in progressions and clarification key expectations at different stages.