



## Learning at Home

The Board of Management and staff of Bishop Galvin NS recognises that learning at home is an important part of communication between school and home. Engaging with their child's learning in a variety of ways across the curriculum, supports parents by keeping them informed and involved in their child's education. We know that children can have a range of activities after school during the week, and there are many different home contexts. Connecting learning at home to learning in school is very important. Flexibility and relevance are also key to worthwhile learning tasks.

Throughout the school year 2022-2023, a variety of approaches for learning at home were trialled by teachers across the classes. *BGNS Skills4Life* (see Appendix 1) was introduced, along with a strong focus on motivation to read. Parents were regularly invited to give feedback to the school. Feedback was also sought from staff and pupils whilst creating this policy. A draft policy was put in place for the school year 2023-2024, and reviewed in September 2024. It was updated and approved by the Board of Management at their meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

### Aims

In general, the broad aims of learning at home are:

- to connect and support parents with their child's learning in school
- to provide opportunities for pupils to learn key life skills, including managing their time and becoming independent learners
- to support pupils to develop a sense of responsibility for their learning
- to consolidate learning in school

### Procedure

1. To enable flexibility, learning at home tasks are allocated on a weekly basis. It is sent home via *Aladdin Connect* and pupils also write the information into their *Learning Journal*.

2. Pupils are encouraged to complete certain tasks at home on a daily basis including the following:

-*Spellings for Me*

-*Tables and/or Mathematics*

3. Pupils are strongly encouraged to read at home every day.

4. A balance between oral and written tasks is important, along with project work, the use of technology, and *BGNS Skills4Life* programme.

### **Good habits for *Learning at Home***

Family contexts and daily/weekly schedules, each one unique, undoubtedly influence how a child can learn at home. Parents are asked to support their child by developing habits below:

- Talk with your child and together schedule a time across the week for completing assigned learning tasks and reading at home.
- Help your child choose an appropriate study location – a quiet place, a desk or table for written work or a comfortable chair for reading. If your child has a phone, to avoid distraction, it should be put away in another room.
- Have an extra pencil case at home with all necessary materials such as pencils, coloured pencils, eraser, etc.
- Read with your child and/or chat with him/her about what they/you are reading.
- If your child becomes tired or frustrated, pause for a break and agree a time when to come back to it. If this happens on a regular basis, contact the class teacher for support.

### **Guidelines for Parents**

The school encourages the active involvement of parents in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently. Parents are asked to:

- ✓ Sign the school *Learning Journal* every Monday evening to ensure that you are aware of learning tasks for the week. On Thursday evening, check with your child that everything is completed.
- ✓ Support reading at home every day and ensure your child completes their *Reading Log*.
- ✓ Oral learning tasks are really important-ask your child their spellings, tables, etc. on a regular basis.
- ✓ Inform the teacher via *Aladdin* if your child is experiencing difficulty on any aspect of learning at home.
- ✓ Actively encourage pupil participation in *BGNS Skills4Life* programme (*see Appendix 1*)

### **Expectations of Pupils**

It is expected that pupils will:

- ✓ Read very often at home.
- ✓ Return all of their completed learning tasks on Fridays.
- ✓ Learn spellings and tables regularly.
- ✓ Complete their *Reading Log* and *Learning Journal* every week.

### **Guidelines for Teachers**

- All learning tasks should be assigned in school on Mondays.
- Tasks should be differentiated in accordance with pupils' class level, needs and abilities. Collaborate with the Support Teacher where relevant.
- No written tasks are assigned for the first fortnight in September. Focus is on new routines and reading for pleasure. The last two weeks in December can be a very busy time for families. No written tasks are given during this time. The same applies for the month of June, with a focus on well-being i.e. getting outside for exercise and playing with friends.

### **Inclusion**

The school recognises that children with additional educational needs may require a differentiated approach to learning at home. It is important for the Class Teacher, Support Teacher and parents to work together in supporting pupil learning, both in school and in relation to tasks to be completed at home. If a pupil is unable to complete the tasks, a note from parents should be sent to the teacher via *Aladdin*. If this happens on a regular basis, a meeting should be arranged with the teacher and parents to discuss and agree a plan for supporting learning at home.

## **Appendix 1: BGNS Skills4Life**

In 2022-2023, *BGNS Skills4Life* was introduced as part of the school's review on building learning connections between school and home. Each month assigned activities (see sample list below) were included as part of learning tasks to be completed at home. These activities are practical life skills, to support pupils in becoming more independent in their daily lives. Overall feedback from parents was very positive.

For 2024-2025, *BGNS Skills4Life* will continue for Term 2. Tasks will be assigned each month by the Principal via Aladdin notification to parents. When a task is mastered, pupils tick it off on their chart, in their *Learning Journal*, and it is signed by their parent(s). Pupils will be regularly encouraged in school with various incentives for the *BGNS Skills4Life* programme throughout the school year.

BGNS Skills4Life examples:

- Set and clear the table after a family meal*
- Empty, load and turn on the dishwasher*
- Make your bed every day*
- Write out a shopping list and check prices*
- Learn how to use the washing machine*
- Practice telling the time regularly*
- Practice tying shoe laces*
- Make a sandwich for yourself*
- Make a cup of tea/coffee for parents*
- Check packaging for recycling symbol and turn off light switches when not needed at home*
- Learn how to change pillow cases and sheets on your bed*
- Learn how to change duvet cover*
- Use the Hoover or sweep the floor in your house*
- Peel and chop carrots/potatoes*
- Learn how to use the microwave*
- Clean/polish your shoes/football boots*

- Make your own lunch for school*
- Write a note/card to a family member and post it to them.*
- Learn how to wrap a present!*