

Increasing Parental Engagement with Evidence for Learning



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Our EfL Journey

- We introduced Evidence for Learning 4 years ago as we could see the potential for capturing tiny steps of progress and for enabling parents/carers to be more aware of their child's progress across the year.
- We set up robust monitoring procedures to ensure that evidence was of high quality and focused on the **learning** that was taking place
- After our first trials, we decided to merge all of our processes into EfL and we built personalised frameworks for each child based on their wider EHCP outcomes which were then broken down into their IEP targets and then used as part of the annual review.
- After a term of populating and monitoring, we introduced EfL to our parents and carers

Introducing EfL

- Initial letter to introduce EfL
- Newsletter and social media updates – encourage parents to add comments, their own photos
- Second letter sent out including more detailed instructions for how to add it to their home screens on their phones/tablets
- We used the 'Parent Log' section of the EfL console to monitor parental engagement
- Approximately 70% of parents were signed up and accessing by this point

Parents and Carers

At Fox Wood School we use an online Learning Journal for all pupils called Evidence for Learning. The learning journal records photos, videos, observations, and teacher comments in line with each individual's curriculum pathway. The journal helps us build up a record of each pupil's experiences during the current academic year and over their time at Fox Wood.

Evidence for Learning is a safe and secure system that enables teachers to record pupil achievement, and to share each child's achievements with parents and carers. We have been using Evidence for Learning this term and we now welcome parents and carers to access their child's learning journey via the secure web based Parent Portal. The Parent Portal allows parents and carers to access (username and password) their child's Learning Journal. When you log in to the system, you can only access your own child's Learning Journal, not anyone else's. We encourage parents and carers to input comments to existing observations made by our staff.

Due to the nature of our classes and the activities your child undertakes, your child's image *may* appear in another child's Learning Journey, as it is not always possible to avoid other pupils appearing in photographs/videos used for other children's Evidence for Learning profiles. This would usually be on the edge of an image, or the periphery of a video. We try to avoid this as much as possible, but we are sure you will appreciate that, when children are learning together in a group, as is often the case, it is impossible to 'edit' out other participants. We would never intentionally use a photo that contains an image of a distressed or agitated child and would be mindful of this when selecting photos, even if your child is only on the periphery of the photo. We feel it is important to share as much as we can with parents/carers in learning profiles, so we would appreciate you completing the consent form below to allow us to use images that partially include your child in the learning journey of another child.

For parents and carers without access to the internet, we can print all of the information from the Evidence for Learning App and this would be done at the end of the academic year. Parents would need to request this. We will also share each pupil's record with parents and carers when they attend parent evenings.

When pupils move to another setting (i.e. leave Fox Wood) we will close their accounts in Evidence for Learning. The information saved, and their Learning Journals in Evidence for Learning, will be permanently deleted from the school account, and data disposed of in accordance with the school policies, which follow The General Data Protection Regulation, which came into force in May 2018.

In addition to the school following statutory safeguarding and data protection procedures, you will also need to be aware that the downloading, saving or sharing of images and video you access, that contain the image of a child other than your own, via the Parent Portal is prohibited.

Please sign the consent form giving permission for your child's image to appear in others' learning journals and to protect images of other children that may appear in any photos contained in your own child's Learning Journal.

Kind Regards

Mrs Lianne Buchanan

Deputy Headteacher



Fox Wood School

Evidence for Learning Agreement Form

I give permission for my child's (name: _____) image to appear in another child's Learning Journal and not to share images of other children I view in my child's Learning Journey on social media or by any other method.

[illegible][illegible]

Signed:

Date:

Please return the completed form to the school at your earliest convenience.

Once we have processed this form, you will be emailed details to enable you to access the Parent Portal of Evidence for Learning to access and comment on your child's achievements.

Guide for Parents/Carers

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Navigating your Parent Portal

rious channels that you can Tap/Click on:

A collaborative approach

We want to work with you to celebrate your child's progress. You can login to your Parent Portal on any computer, tablet or phone that can access the internet. Once logged in you will be able to see the evidence that we have shared with you. You can also if you choose to upload pictures and videos and share them with us. We look forward to seeing some of the pictures and videos that you share with us.

Getting Started

First Steps

You will receive two emails from "theTeacherCloud":

- One email will contain your unique login link
- One email will contain your temporary password

Logging In

- Make a note of your temporary password, or even better, *Copy* it
- Tap/Click on the login link that you were emailed to access your unique login page and then *Paste* or enter in your temporary password
- Tap/Click Login to enter your secure parent portal

2

Guidelines and important things to remember

Photos and videos

Available on the EfL website

Engaging Parents/Carers

- We thought it was an 'easy sell' but some parents/carers did not respond to our communications; so we devised a plan of action to engage the rest:
- Spoke to parents/carers on drop off/pick up – office staff!
- Wrote to parents/carers in home school diaries to remind them how to log in
- Reset passwords and sent access instructions again
- Targeted individual parents who had not accessed EfL at parents evening – show them what they are missing!
- Involve social care, send instructions to social workers so they can support parents to access EfL
- Get parents onto EfL from early years as they join the school
- Set home learning activities using EfL – share this in the newsletter, ask parents to add photos for 'news time' on a Monday morning
- 'How to' videos uploaded to school social media pages (set up a Test Pupil so it is in Parent View)

Personalised Letters

- Our most successful strategy was personalised letters sent out to parents/carers with screenshots of their child, we use this now if log ins reduce

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been reviewing our online learning journal, Evidence for Learning and have noticed that you have not logged in to see your child's work this half term.

Please take this opportunity to have a look at your child's achievements this half term, there are some fantastic photographs and video clips on Evidence for Learning and staff upload information regularly so that parents and carers can see how their child is progressing throughout the year.



Aa COMMENTS

Week 1:
During morning register Sam is encouraged to choose a different friend each day that he would like to say good morning to, with some verbal and guided prompts he will choose a friend and place their picture on the correct day.

Week 6:
Sam will independently choose a different friend each day to say good morning to.

Sam has made excellent progress towards his IEP target this half term and will be sharing this in our celebration assembly on Friday. Please log in to see the video of Sam that will be shared. We are really proud of him!

Please let us know if you would like us to reset your password through your child's home school diary and if you would like some additional support to log in.

Yours Sincerely,

Pastoral Support Officer

Sponsorship

- We also managed to engage some of our most difficult to reach parents and carers through school sponsorship from a local business led by one of our governors

£200 raised!

We have been reviewing our online learning journal, Evidence for Learning for this academic year and have noticed that you have not logged in to see your child's work since September 2019.

A local company, K9 Shape & Shine, has agreed to sponsor the school £10 for each parent who logs in who hasn't logged in this academic year, this means that your child will get some new resources for their class if you log in this week!

Please take this opportunity to have a look at your child's achievements via Evidence for Learning whilst also helping us to raise much needed funds for school! Your help is greatly appreciated.



Lockdown Opportunities

- Lockdown gave us a unique opportunity and helped us to get ALL parents to log in more regularly
- We used EFL for our home learning delivery – Activity Channel pre-recorded video clips and lesson resources
- Parents were encouraged during weekly welfare calls to log in, complete set activities, upload photos/videos/comments to the journal to capture their learning at home
- For pupils still in school the journal was used to capture outcomes from our Phoenix Curriculum used to support transition back into school life

Parental Engagement

- Parents/carers are much more aware now of EfL and how to use it. The vast majority now access EfL regularly and upload photos/comments
- We still have a handful of parents who do not access EfL regularly and we continue to try to engage them with personalised letters, password resets and reminders if they do contact/come into school for appointments/events
- We use EfL within annual reviews to show pupil progress towards their wider EHCP targets – we share it at parents' evening, meet the team, stay and play, coffee mornings, parent workshops and so on
- We continue to use EfL for home learning when needed