



TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY

We believe that learning should be a lifelong process and a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone. Through our teaching we focus on inspiring the children to learn, equipping them with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be autonomous learners who reach their full potential. We believe that appropriate teaching and learning experiences contribute to children becoming successful learners, who lead rewarding lives as responsible citizens.

Principles

- To develop a community of learners where learning is valued, enjoyed, supportive and lifelong
- To enable children to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners
- To develop children's self-respect and encourage children to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others regardless of race, culture and beliefs
- To encourage children to take pride in their work and the work of others

Learning Culture

To enable children to learn well, the school will work to develop a culture **where children:**

- Enjoy learning
- Feel safe – respect, value and support each other as learners
- Take risks
- Recognise mistakes and errors as a learning opportunity and persevere to correct these
- Set high expectations – learning behaviour, progress in learning, presentation
- Develop a 'can do' attitude

and where adults:

- establish positive working relationships with all children in the class
- model learning and expected behaviour for the children
- treat all children fairly and with kindness and respect with encouragement, praise and rewards for all

This learning culture needs to be actively taught and quickly established (in September), then further developed and reinforced, throughout the year, involving the children at every stage.

Effective Learning

People learn in different ways. Learning opportunities should incorporate a range of strategies in order to engage children in learning and meet the needs of all learners. These include:

- investigation and problem solving, children setting challenges for themselves
- research
- whole-class work, group work (in groups selected for different reasons), paired work
- independent work, which is child directed
- selecting and using relevant resources to support learning
- asking and answering questions
- use of IT including visual images, film, interactive teaching resources
- fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest
- guest visitors and performances
- creative activities such as drama, designing and making things
- debates, discussions, oral presentations and other speaking and listening strategies
- participation in athletic or physical activity

Children should be taught to take responsibility for their own learning; to review the way they learn and how they learn as well as how to overcome challenges in their learning.

Effective Teaching

Assessment for Learning will be evident in planning and teaching to ensure lessons are well paced and all pupils make progress in learning. Prior assessment of the pupils' understanding should be used to inform the planning lessons with a clear progression in skills.

- **Learning Objectives**
 - clear and focused - based on learning rather than task
 - displayed
 - discussed and explained to the children
 - based on prior attainment, knowledge and understanding
 - written in the format: to...
- **Success Criteria**
 - break down the learning taking place
 - include the steps or 'ingredients' the children need to be successful in their learning
 - are identified by the teacher during the planning process
 - are usually generated with the children during the lesson
 - are written up, displayed and referred to during the lesson

- **Plenary**
 - should be used during lessons in order to further the progress of the class, group or individuals as and when needed
 - reviews progress towards the learning objective and success criteria
 - allows adults, and children, to address misconceptions, make improvements and add further challenge
- **Outcome**
 - what will be achieved by the children by the end of the lesson
 - the learning activity/evidence of learning
 - matched to the children's next steps in their learning
- **Challenge for All**
 - Takes place throughout the lesson
 - Is matched to children's next step learning
 - Adaptive teaching through adult support; range and level of resources; time; task; different outcomes
 - When planning work for children with Special Educational Needs information and targets contained in the children's Individual Education Plans (I.E.P.s) are addressed
- **Adult Input**
 - Engages children in the learning
 - Is active and interactive
 - Has appropriate pace to ensure maximum learning takes place
 - Responds to, and is adapted to, ongoing assessment during the lesson
 - Clearly models successful learning/the learning activity
 - Generates success criteria
 - Is flexible according to the learning taking place eg.
 - Adapts the inputs for different groups
 - Different levels of support and resources for different abilities
 - Input – activity – input – activity
- **Questioning**
 - questions will be asked to assess learning, challenge and deepen thinking and understanding
 - The range will include open/closed; higher and lower order
 - Will be matched to the children's understanding and ability
 - Opportunities will be planned for children to develop their own questions
- **Feedback & Marking**
 - Regular feedback will be given to the children
 - Identifies success and areas for improvement/next steps in learning
 - Refers to learning objectives, success criteria and age related expectations
 - Opportunities are planned for children to regularly respond to feedback
- **Self & Peer Assessment**
 - Children are trained to self and peer assess
 - Guidelines are discussed, agreed and developed with the children
 - Is used regularly to enable children to address misconceptions and make improvements to their work using green pen
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- **Active Learning**
 - Children are given opportunities to be involved in the learning throughout the lesson
 - A range of strategies are used
 - There is an appropriate balance of adult/pupil talk

Opportunities are planned to enable children to develop and apply their skills, knowledge and understanding across the curriculum.

Learning Environment

- A stimulating environment sets the climate for learning.
- An exciting, well-organised classroom promotes independent use of resources and supports high quality learning.
- Teachers and children work together to establish an attractive welcoming and well organised environment engendering respect, care and value for all resources.
- Classrooms should be bright and tidy as well as vocabulary and number rich.
- Displays are used to:
 - Celebrate success and achievement
 - Support class organisation – visual timetables, clearly labelled resources
 - Promote independence by providing prompts, questions and support for when children are stuck
 - Support learning – working walls, presentation examples, interactive activities and challenges
 - Displays are changed regularly and reflect the current learning

Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistants and other adult helpers are deployed throughout school to support learning as effectively as possible. They are involved in:

- supporting children to manage their behaviour and emotions
- leading appropriate interventions with both groups and individuals
- supporting learning and children's progress
- supporting assessments of children's understanding
- developing children's independence

Volunteer helpers, mainly parents, are directed by teachers to assist in some classrooms with general tasks: listening to readers, assisting on outings and in providing other help.

The Role of Curriculum Subject Leaders

- Monitor progress and attainment in subject areas and action plan to improve areas of need
- Support colleagues to develop practice and subject knowledge to maximise progress
- Take the lead in policy development
- Have responsibility for the purchase and organisation of resources
- Keep up to date with developments in their particular subject area and be responsible for sharing this with colleagues
- Feedback action plan updates to governors on a termly basis

Role of Parents

Parents have a fundamental role to play in helping children to learn. They are informed about what and how their children are learning by:

- holding regular consultation evenings in which the progress made by each pupil and his/her next steps in learning are explained and discussed
- sending an annual report to parents explaining the progress made by their child and indicating areas for improvement;
- explaining to parents how they can support their children with homework;
- holding parent workshops to explain the work covered and the strategies and methods taught to the pupils.
- sending information to parents at the start of each term in which we outline the learning areas and topics that the pupils will be covering that term;
- keeping parents informed of a pupil's progress on a more regular basis when appropriate.

Role of Governors

Governors support, monitor and review the school policies on teaching and learning. In particular they:

- support teaching and learning by allocating resources effectively;
- ensure that the school buildings and premises are best used to support successful teaching and learning;
- monitor teaching strategies in the light of health and safety regulations;
- monitor how effective teaching and learning strategies are in terms of raising pupil attainment;
- ensure that staff development and performance management policies promote good quality teaching;
- monitor the effectiveness of the school's teaching and learning policies through the school's self-evaluation processes. These may include reports from subject leaders and the termly Headteacher's report to governors, as well as a review of the in-service training sessions attended by our staff.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Staff will be observed regularly for monitoring and professional development purposes. Feedback will be given on the quality of teaching in the lesson, whilst also taking into account pupils' work, assessment information and behaviour over time.

Staff are encouraged to identify their own areas of strengths and areas for development following an observation as this will develop ownership of their own professional development. These strengths and areas for development will be discussed with senior leaders and opportunities to address these put in place.

Each staff member has a professional development file – records of lesson observations and the outcome of subsequent professional development opportunities will be recorded in this file.

Other monitoring to include within the triangulation of teaching and learning may include;

- Learning walks
- Senior leaders or subject leaders conducting brief observations
- Data analysis
- Work scrutiny
- Assessing the quality of the classroom environment
- Professional conduct
- Marking and feedback
- Pupil conversations