



Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School

Teaching and Learning Policy

Introduction

At St Mary's Primary School we believe in the concept of lifelong learning and the idea that both adults and children learn new things every day, experiencing successes and failures along the way to develop a resilience and passion for learning. We maintain that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone; it should be fun. Through our teaching we equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their lives. We believe that appropriate teaching and learning experiences help children to lead happy and rewarding lives.

Aims and objectives

We believe that people learn best in different ways. At our school we provide a rich and varied learning environment that allows children to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential.

Through our teaching we aim to:

- enable children to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners;
- foster children's self-esteem and help them build positive relationships with other people;
- develop children's self-respect and encourage children to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others;
- show respect for all cultures and, in so doing, to promote positive attitudes towards other people;
- enable children to understand their community and help them feel valued as part of this community;
- help children grow into reliable, independent and positive citizens.

Effective learning

We acknowledge that people learn in many different ways and we recognise the need to develop strategies that allow all children to learn in ways that best suit them. We offer opportunities for children to learn in many different ways. We encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning, to be involved as far as possible in reviewing the way they learn, and to reflect on how they learn and what can enhance or restrict their learning.

Extension activities are planned to ensure children are challenged and reach their potential. These tasks or questions have a yellow dot placed next to the children's work in their books.

Effective teaching

When teaching we focus on motivating the children and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. We base our teaching on our knowledge of the children's level of attainment. Our prime focus is to develop further the knowledge and skills of the children. We strive to with special educational needs we give due regard to information and targets contained in the

children's Focused Targets Record. We have high expectations of all children, and we want them to achieve to their highest potential.

We set academic targets for all children across the year. These are shared with pupils and parents. We continuously review the progress of each child and adjust the targets accordingly at appropriate times. We plan our lessons with clear learning objectives and success criteria. We take these objectives from the National Curriculum. Our lesson plans contain information about the tasks to be set, the resources needed, and the way we assess the children's progress and understanding. We evaluate all lessons so that we can modify and improve our teaching in the future.

Our teachers establish good working relationships with all children in the class. We treat the children with kindness and respect. We treat them fairly and give them equal opportunity to take part in all class activities. All our teachers follow the school policy with regard to discipline and classroom management.

We set and agree with children the class code of conduct. We expect all children to comply with these rules that we jointly devise to promote the best learning opportunities for all. We praise children for their efforts and we help to build positive attitudes towards school and learning in general. We insist on good order and behaviour at all times. When children misbehave we follow the guidelines for sanctions as outlined in our Positive Behaviour Policy.

We ensure that all tasks and activities that the children do are safe by carrying out relevant risk assessments.

Teaching assistants and other adult helpers are used as effectively as possible to enhance teaching and learning.

Our classrooms are attractive learning environments. We change displays regularly to ensure that the classroom reflects the topics studied by the children. We ensure that all children have the opportunity to display their best work at some time during the year. All classrooms are well resourced and we believe that a stimulating environment sets the climate for learning, and an exciting classroom promotes independent use of resources and produces high-quality work by the children.

All our teachers reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and plan their professional development needs accordingly. We do all we can to support our teachers in developing their skills, so that they can continually improve their practice. We conduct all our teaching in an atmosphere of trust and respect for all.

The Role of Governors

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

- support the use of appropriate teaching strategies 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 self- review processes. These include reports from subject leaders and the regular Headteacher report to Governors, as well as a review of the Inset training sessions attended by our staff.

The Role of Parents

We believe that parents have a fundamental role to play in helping children to learn. We do all we can to inform parents about what and how their children are learning by:

- sending information to parents at the start of each term in which we outline the topics that the children will be studying during that term at school;
- sending regular reports to parents in which we explain the progress made by each child and indicate how the child can improve further;
- explaining to parents how they can support their children with homework.

We believe that parents have the responsibility to support their children and the school in implementing school policies. We would like parents to:

- ensure that their child has the best attendance record possible;
- ensure that their child is ready for school with the correct uniform, curriculum resources and PE kit;
- do their best to keep their child healthy and fit to attend school;
- inform school if there are matters outside of school that are likely to affect a child's performance or behaviour at school;
- promote a positive attitude towards school and learning in general;

Signed: Executive Headteacher: *S.L. Slack*

Signed: Chair of Governors: *G. Duncan*

Date: Reviewed September 2020