



Shine brightly together and reach for the stars!

Teaching and Learning Policy

Aims

Our aim is to ensure our pupils develop a love of learning and activate their enquiring minds. We want our pupils to be resilient, resourceful, responsible learners who have the confidence, skills and attitudes to be successful life-long achievers. We aim to promote a learning culture so that pupils develop a love of learning and the desire to continue to learn. We aim to give our pupils every opportunity to succeed.

Our STAR Standards ensure that children acquire skills which they will be able to use not only whilst at Melbourne Infant School but can carry forward into the rest of their lives.

Through this policy we aim to promote best practice and to establish consistency across the whole school. It aims to ensure that the children are provided with high quality learning experiences that lead to a consistently high level of pupil achievement and attitude.

The supportive learning environment

Teachers are responsible for providing a caring, supportive and stimulating learning environment in which all children are helped to reach their emotional and academic potential. Children learn best when they feel safe to take on challenges, are interested and motivated and feel valued. We recognise the importance of building positive self-esteem in children.

Teachers express high aspirations for themselves and the children they teach. Consistency in expectations and standards help pupils feel safe. Clear boundaries are set and good behaviour recognised and rewarded. We respect difference and encourage children to learn from and thrive within our school community. Children are taught to take risks and learn through mistakes. Success is celebrated as part of our learning culture.

The physical environment

There are positive effects on standards and motivation of pupils associated with the physical environment. Factors include the use of displays, music, the use of resources including ICT, the consideration of pupil groupings in the physical layout of the room.

Teachers are responsible for ensuring classrooms are an exciting, stimulating and welcoming place to be by:

- Arranging furniture and space to create a safe, flexible learning environment including a carpet focus area.
- Creating a topic focussed environment which stimulates interest in the theme/topic e.g. wall/door display, themed book corner or role play area.
- Making sure the equipment/ resources are labelled and accessible to promote independent learning.
- Creating a space for each student for example peg areas.
- Using music appropriately throughout the day.
- Teaching, and expecting, children to respect and care for their environment.
- Ensuring classrooms are inviting and all areas are clear and clutter free.
- Providing an inviting book corner/ quiet area.



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- Creating role play areas (where and when relevant)

Display

We use display to support, reinforce and celebrate learning. Display should aid recall, stimulate further thinking, give new information, make connections, celebrate achievement, remind children of rules and targets and motivate children towards further learning.

Each class across school should have:

- English working wall - words we don't know yet chart/ board and vocabulary board, examples of children's/ staff modelled work.
- Phonic frieze and Common Exception Words for that year.
- Maths working wall - worked examples, key vocabulary, show it, draw it, explain it, prove it.
- Vocabulary to be used across the curriculum.
- Topic display boards to showcase the learning journey through the topic - including KWL grids.
- Sticky Knowledge boxes - including written questions by the children.
- Visual timeline on display at all times during the day.
- STAR Standards.
- Colour Monsters for children to peg their names onto to show how they are feeling.
- SMILERS display.
- Sam the Scientist investigation.

The curriculum

Teachers are responsible for maintaining a very good subject and pedagogical knowledge and for ensuring the best possible learning opportunities are planned, delivered and monitored. All adults are expected to be leaders of learning, attending courses, observing good practice, building and disseminating knowledge and best practice.

EYFS:

Opportunities are created for the children to explore all areas of the EYFS framework; with the focus being primarily on the Prime areas to ensure all children have a strong foundation on which to build.

KS1:

We use the objectives from the National Curriculum for English and maths to underpin the taught curriculum. Reading is at the heart of our curriculum. Classes have an over-arching topic each term which is informed by pupil questions and an enquiry approach.

During Autumn Term the focus is Geography based, Spring Term the focus is History based and Summer Term has Expressive Arts as the focus. Teachers plan lessons using the National Curriculum to ensure children receive their entitlement. Teachers may use schemes of work, for example White Rose in Maths, but are expected to tailor it to meet the needs of the children in their class/group. Wherever possible, links are made to real life experiences to make the curriculum relevant. Cross-curricular links are created to promote and further develop reading, writing and mathematical skills. We aim to make the curriculum reflective of, and responsive to the cultural background of our pupils.



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Focus weeks/ days

Throughout the year we hold a mixture of focus days or weeks; these range from specific curriculum areas e.g. science week, World Book Day. The aim of this approach is to raise the profile and enthusiasm for an area and to provide children with the opportunity to practise their skills and develop new interests.

Pupil Outcomes

Educating children to ensure they grow up to lead safe, happy, healthy and successful lives is at the heart of what we do. Through direct teaching and extended schools provision we aim to integrate and promote these ideals through the curriculum so that all pupils can:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well being

We provide opportunities for learning in these areas through the PSHE and wider curriculum, through the use of visits and visitors e.g. fire brigade, police officers and through the participation in community or charity based events.

The learning journey

Teachers are responsible for the planning, preparation and delivery of opportunities which enable learners, in relation to their starting points, to achieve high standards. This requires a thorough knowledge of each individual in the class (prior attainment, targets, learning needs, cultural backgrounds and interests) it also requires very good subject knowledge with effective planning and stimulating use of strategies, resources and personnel to enable all pupils to learn effectively. Teachers are expected to create a secure and friendly environment in which high levels of good behaviour are maintained. Our aim as teachers is to enable learners to thrive, enjoy and develop the skills and capacity to work independently and collaboratively making good progress in all aspects of their learning. As a staff, we constantly consider teaching style, environment, rules and expectations of behaviour to ensure that every child is feeling confident, happy and secure.

Recognising and celebrating success through assemblies, displays and performances is very important at Melbourne Infant School. We ensure that there is a broad range of opportunities for everyone to **SHINE**.

Children are grouped according to the aims of the lessons. For English/ phonics and maths this is sometimes by academic ability, however throughout the day it may be mixed ability, by gender or friendships.

Activities are differentiated to meet learning needs. Our SENDCo ensures appropriate support is in place for those with special educational needs.

Questioning



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The use of open and closed questioning is vital to teaching and learning. Questions are used to assess children's starting points, to deepen understanding and to check children's progress. A range of question types should be used from literal to higher order. Children must always be given thinking time and a range of strategies are employed for example: carpet buddies, think-pair-share. We teach children how to raise their own questions and how to use a range of techniques to find the answers to questions that have been posed.

Learning Styles

We recognise children learn in different ways and therefore plan and deliver a multi-sensory, differentiated approach to engage all learners using auditory, kinaesthetic and visual stimuli.

Throughout the day, pupils engage in whole-class work, group work, paired work and independent work. We aim for each session to include visual, auditory and kinaesthetic activities so that pupils see, hear and do. We model, encourage and praise cooperative learning.

Assessment for learning

Assessment lies at the heart of the process of promoting children's learning. It provides a framework within which educational objectives may be set and children's progress expressed and monitored. This should be done in partnership with the children. Assessment should be incorporated systematically into teaching strategies to ensure misconceptions are addressed.

Our assessment procedures are free from bias, stereotyping and generalisation in respect of gender, class, race and disability.

Principles

Using the principles and processes of assessment, we aim to:

- monitor progress and support learning
- recognise the achievements of pupils
- guide future planning, teaching and curriculum development
- inform parents of pupil achievement
- provide information to ensure continuity when the pupil changes school or year group
- comply with statutory requirements

A learning objective is shared (written or spoken) during each session so children understand the purpose of the lesson, at the end children are guided to assess their progress and discuss how they have achieved.

Teachers are constantly assessing; they observe, ask questions and work with groups and individuals throughout the day. Work where possible is marked alongside the child. Marking is a dialogue and teachers often ask a question or give a challenge when marking written work.

We also value summative assessments of learning, where the children are assessed against national standards. We use a variety of resources and use the results to record progress and to predict future levels of attainment.

Each term, teachers in all year groups record the attainment in all subjects on the school tracking system (Insight Tracking) for each individual pupil.



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On entry to Reception a baseline assessment is, initially made, for all children.

Assessments of children throughout FS are integral to good practice as observations recording significant learning for each child are collected to create a Learning Journey (Seesaw). Results of assessment are used to inform planning, set next steps and aid early identification of special needs. At the end of Reception all children are assessed against the Early Learning Goals.

Senior leaders discuss with teachers' assessment results on a termly basis during Pupil Progress Meetings. Children that have made limited or no progress are the initial focus, with discussions around reducing, or removing, the barriers to learning that these children face. Further discussions around those children that are at ARE, focus on how these children may be challenged to exceed ARE.

Teachers meet with parents individually to discuss progress, at mid-term in the Autumn Term and Spring Term. Then at the end of each school year, teachers write a detailed report for each child.

Equal Opportunities

The delivery and content of lessons should be sufficiently differentiated to ensure all pupils can access and achieve within the curriculum. Teachers must take account of SEND and Higher Ability when planning and teaching lessons to ensure learning opportunities are provided which match pupils' ability and potential.

Techniques to support effective learning

Music

Music is used for a variety of purposes:

- To influence mood and atmosphere e.g. to energise or relax a class or to create a calm start or end to the day.
- To demarcate time on a task e.g. using a timed piece of music for tidy up time, changing for PE or during handwriting
- To carry content e.g. through learning songs which carry subject content; learning with music enhances the ability to store and retrieve related information

Brain breaks/ Mindfulness moments

Brain breaks/Mindfulness moments can be used before, during or after formal learning as a means to ensure pupils are ready and actively engaged in their learning.

Trips and visitors

We are fortunate to be located within easy reach of a variety of interesting and educational places which we use to enhance the curriculum and stimulate learning. Teachers should plan a minimum of one visit/visitor per term with a range of experiences being provided across the year.

As a school we must obtain written permission from parents/carers before a child can go out on a trip.

Working with others



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Parents

We actively encourage the participation of parents as partners in learning and aim to create a welcoming atmosphere.

- Parents are informed of their children's learning and ways to support learning through a termly homework activity sheet written by the class teacher.
- Two official parent/teacher meetings are held across the year but parents are entitled to make an appointment to see the teacher at other times. Teachers are expected to raise any concerns about a child's learning or behaviour with parents as soon as possible so that work can be done in partnership to resolve issues.
- A range of learning opportunities are provided to parents and opportunities to observe take part with learning/ activities through year for example; craft afternoons, Phonic/ spelling and Maths mornings.

Teaching assistants

In school we have a highly skilled team of teaching assistants who work across the year groups. Teachers are responsible for the effective direction and deployment of TAs to support learning. This may be working with children 1:1, in small groups or as part of an intervention group.

Pupil voice

We encourage and respect pupil voice. We have Class Ambassadors who meet regularly and makes recommendations and undertakes work to improve our school. All classes make sure children have opportunities to raise concerns and voice opinions. Children's opinions are regularly sought through questionnaires and discussions.

Governors

Our governors monitor how effective teaching and learning strategies are in terms of raising pupil attainment and through the school self-review processes. They are kept informed by visiting the school, as well as attending meetings and reading reports by the Head teacher and other key staff.

Specialist support

Additional support is provided to identify pupils so all children can access the curriculum and fulfil their potential. Support may be given to assist pupils with special educational needs, to pupils who speak English as an additional language or to extend those with a specific gift or talent.

Homework

It is vital that a strong partnership is built with parents and homework gives the chance for parents to become involved in their child's learning

Homework gives the opportunity to reinforce what has been covered in lessons, practise a skill or to introduce a new topic.

Teachers are responsible for setting and marking this work in line with the school policy.

Extended Provision

We provide a varied menu of activities to support and enrich learning; these include breakfast club, after-school clubs, sports tournaments and competitions.