

Teaching and Learning Policy 2019

Scotforth St Paul's Primary & Nursery School

Mission Statement and Principles

We learn, grow and care in God's family

Key Principles

- Pupils positively understand their worth and potential-and that of others
- Pupils develop skills, knowledge and enthusiasm for ongoing learning through an inspiring curriculum
- Pupils grow in emotional and spiritual resilience, surrounded by God's love

At Scotforth St. Paul's Primary School, 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 knowledge, skills and attitudes 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.

Our INTENT is

- 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 and culture
- To encourage children to take pride in their work and the work of others
- To challenge all children to achieve their best irrespective of academic ability (e.g SEN/D or AG & T)

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
- Can take risks in a safe environment and learn from them
- Recognise mistakes and errors as a learning opportunity and persevere
- Set high expectations – learning behaviour, progress in learning, presentation etc.
- 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 will be actively taught and quickly established (in September), then further modelled, developed and reinforced, throughout the year, involving the children at every stage.

IMPLEMENTATION through Effective Teaching and Learning

Assessment for Learning will be evident in planning and lessons, 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 knowledge and skills.

- **Learning Objectives**
 - clear and focused - based on learning rather than task
 - discussed and explained to the children
 - based on prior attainment, knowledge and understanding
- **Success Criteria**
 - break down the learning take 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 and referred to during the lesson/series of lessons
- **Plenary**
 - As needed at times during, and at the end of, the lesson
 - reviews progress towards the learning objective and success criteria
 - allows adults, and children, to address misconceptions, make improvements and add further challenge
 - learning may be applied to different contexts
 - time to reflect on the 'how' of learning in addition to 'what' has been learnt
 - should be used during lessons only when the progress of the class, group or individuals will be furthered
- **Outcome**
 - what will be learned/achieved by the children by the end of the lesson/series of lessons
 - the learning activity/evidence of learning
 - sufficient time given to enable children to achieve meaningful 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 steps learning- whether Able & Talented or SEN/D etc.
 - May occur 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 Learning Plans (I.L.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 e.g.
 - Different inputs for different groups
 - Different start times for different groups
 - Input – activity – input – activity
 - Guided groups etc.
- **Questioning**
 - questions will be asked to assess learning, challenge and deepen thinking and understanding
 - The range will include open/closed; higher and lower order (eg. Bloom's Taxonomy) will make links to previous learning/knowledge
 - Will be matched to the children's understanding and ability
 - Opportunities will be planned for children to develop their own questions and questioning
- **Feedback & Marking**
 - Regular feedback will be given to the children-very often verbal
 - Identifies success and areas for improvement/next steps in learning
 - Refers to learning objectives, success criteria, children's and age related expectations in spelling, punctuation and grammar
 - Opportunities are planned for children to regularly respond to feedback and marking
- **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
- **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.

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 could include:

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

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

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 encouraging independent learning, respect, care and value for all resources.
- Classrooms should be bright and tidy, and should be word and number rich.
- Displays might be used to:
 - Celebrate success - achievement, Star/Learner of the Day/Week
 - Support class organisation – visual timetables, clearly labelled resources
 - Promote Independence by providing prompts – questions, support for when children are stuck
 - Support learning – working walls, presentation examples, interactive & challenging
 - Displays are changed regularly and reflect the current topic/themes/ 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 learning and children's progress
- supporting assessments of children's understanding
- developing children's independence

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

The Role of Curriculum Subject Leaders

- Monitor progress and attainment in subject areas and action plan to address 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 are responsible for sharing this with colleagues

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, afternoon and 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 age appropriate-especially reading homework;
- holding parent workshops as necessary 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 if appropriate, including half termly behaviour, attitude to learning and progress grades for all pupils

Role of Governors

Governors 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's self-evaluation processes. These may include reports from subject leaders and the termly Head teacher's report to governors, as well as a review of CPD sessions attended by our staff.

Monitoring & Evaluating the IMPACT

Monitoring & Evaluation

We are mindful of appropriate work-life balance, therefore Staff will only be formally observed annually for appraisal purposes, with additional short drop-ins undertaken by both SLT/ subject leaders for monitoring and professional development purposes. Judgements will be made on the quality of learning in the lesson, whilst also taking into account pupils' work, attitudes to learning and behaviour. A teaching observation form may be used to assist observers in judging the quality of the learning. Learning walks and peer to peer support may also be used.

Staff will complete a self-evaluation of any formal lesson observation to be used as a basis for discussion in the feedback session with senior leaders and/or observers. For drop-ins Staff are encouraged to reflect on their own areas of strengths and areas for development 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. Following a professional discussion the lesson observation will be written up on a feedback form.

Records of lesson observations and the outcome of subsequent professional development opportunities will be recorded in the monitoring and evaluation file.

Other monitoring to include within the triangulation of teaching and learning will include a mixture of;

- Learning walks
- Senior leaders and/or subject leaders conducting brief observations drop-ins for shorter sessions – for example, a guided reading session
- Data analysis
- Pupil conversations
- Book/planning scrutiny
- Assessing the quality of the classroom environment
- Marking and feedback
- Professional conduct

Review

This policy was written in September 2019 and will be reviewed in September 2020