

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Learning through the love of Jesus Christ

Policy on Teaching and Learning

1 Introduction

- 1.1 At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we learn and grow through the love of Jesus. Our community is a safe, caring and happy place where everyone is supported and valued. Through our own faith, we treat one another the way we would like to be treated. We help every child to be gentle and fair and to always do their best.

We believe in lifelong learning, and in the idea that both adults and children learn new things every day. We encourage children to be active participants in their learning. We maintain that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone. 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. At St Joseph's we believe that successful learning does not happen in isolation, but is a continuous process consisting of many influences and experiences in and beyond school. We value the contribution of parents, family and the wider community in the education of the whole child.

2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1 We believe that people learn best in different ways. At our school, we provide a rich and varied learning environment that allows all children to develop their skills and abilities to reach their full potential.
- 2.2 Through our teaching, we aim to:
- enable children to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners;
 - foster children's self-esteem, and help them to build positive relationships with other people;
 - develop children's self-respect, encourage them to understand the ideas, attitudes and values of others, and teach them to respect other people's feelings;
 - show respect for a diverse range of cultures and, in so doing, to promote positive attitudes towards other people;
 - develop children's ability to make healthy choices through our PSHE curriculum
 - enable children to understand their community, and help them feel valued as part of it;
 - develop children's understanding of their role in the St Joseph's school community through active participation in the school council.
 - help children grow into reliable, independent and positive citizens, who participate and take responsibility for their local and wider community.

3 Effective learning

- 3.1 Research tells us that people learn in many different ways, and respond best to different types of input (visual, auditory and kinaesthetic); we must therefore deliver teaching in different ways to address the needs of all our learners. We take into account the different forms of intelligence (e.g. mathematical/logical, visual/spatial, interpersonal, musical) when planning our teaching.

- 3.2 We ensure the best possible environment for learning by developing a positive atmosphere in which pupils feel safe and feel they belong, in which they enjoy being challenged, but in which they enjoy learning. They know that they will succeed because they know the challenge will have been set at the right level.
- 3.3 At St Joseph's, we deliver learning through a creative, topic based curriculum which is planned, monitored and structured to maximise learning opportunities, these learning opportunities will be planned in accordance with the following principles:
- the teaching should build on previous learning ;
 - it should give pupils the 'big picture' of the lesson;
 - the teacher should explain the learning objectives, and why the lesson is important;
 - pupils should be given the Success criteria - **W.I.L.F (What I'm looking for)** and **W.A.L.T (We are learning to)** for all lessons
 - the lesson should be presented in a range of styles;
 - it should allow opportunities for the pupils to build up their own understanding through various activities;
 - it should allow opportunities for the children to review what has been learnt;
 - it should have built-in opportunities for feedback to the children, celebrating success and reviewing learning strategies;
 - the teaching should indicate what the next step in the learning will be.
- 3.4 We realise that children learn in different ways and incorporate opportunities for children to learn in different ways in our planning. These include:
- investigation and problem-solving;
 - research and discovery;
 - group work;
 - paired work;
 - independent work;
 - whole-class work;
 - asking and answering questions;
 - use of ICT and Media
 - learning outside the classroom and visits to places of educational interest;
 - developing an interest in outdoor learning and making use of the local area
 - creative activities;
 - musical activities;
 - debates, role-plays and oral presentations;
 - designing and making things;
 - participation in athletic or physical activity.
 - developing links with local secondary schools
 - sharing extra curricular successes
- 3.5 We encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning, to be involved as far as possible in reviewing the way in which they learn, and to reflect on how they learn – what helps them learn, and what makes it difficult for them to learn. We value the importance of self assessment for children.

4 Effective teaching and learning

- 4.1 When we are teaching, we focus on motivating all the children, and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum, so that they reach the highest level of personal achievement. We use the school curriculum plan to guide our teaching. This sets out the aims, objectives and values of the school, and details what is to be taught to each year group.

- 4.2 Teachers make ongoing assessments of each child's progress, and they use this information when planning their lessons. It enables them to take into account the abilities of all their children. Our prime focus is to develop further the knowledge and skills of all our children. We strive to ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to each child's level of ability. When planning work for children with special educational needs, we give due regard to information and targets contained in the children's Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Teachers modify teaching and learning as appropriate for children with disabilities. We value each child as a unique individual, and teachers are familiar with the relevant equal opportunities legislation covering race, gender and disability. We will strive to meet the needs of all our children, and to ensure that we meet all statutory requirements related to matters of inclusion.
- 4.3 We set academic targets for the children in each year, and we share these targets with children and their parents/carers. We review the progress of each child at the end of the each term, and set revised targets.
- 4.4 We plan our lessons with clear learning objectives and success criteria. We take these objectives from the National Curriculum. Our planning contains information about the tasks to be set and the way in which we assess the children's work. We evaluate all lessons, so that we can modify and improve our future teaching.
- 4.5 Each of our teachers makes a special effort to establish good working relationships with all the children in the class. We treat the children with kindness and respect. We recognise that they are all individuals with different needs, but we treat them fairly, and give them equal opportunity to take part in class activities. All of our teachers follow the school policy with regard to discipline and classroom management. We set and agree with children the class code of conduct, and we expect all children to comply with the rules that we jointly devise to promote the best learning opportunities for all. We praise children for their efforts and, by so doing, 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 policy on behaviour.
- 4.6 We try to ensure that all tasks and activities that the children perform are safe. When we plan to take children out of school, we follow a strict set of procedures to ensure safety: risk assessments are completed, and various permissions are obtained. We inform parents or carers before the visit takes place.
- 4.7 We deploy teaching assistants and other adult helpers as effectively as possible. Sometimes, they work with individual children, and sometimes they work with small groups. Our adult helpers also assist with the preparation and storage of classroom equipment.
- 4.8 Our classrooms are attractive learning environments. We review displays regularly, so that the classroom reflects the topics studied by the children. We ensure that all children have the opportunity to display their work at some time during the year. The school has a range of fiction and non-fiction books, as well as displays relating to literacy and numeracy. We also use displays as learning prompts for the children. We believe that a stimulating environment sets the climate for learning, and that an exciting classroom promotes independent use of resources, which results in high-quality work by the children.
- 4.9 All of our teachers reflect on their strengths and weaknesses, and plan their professional development accordingly. We do all we can to support our teachers in developing their skills, so that they can continually improve their practice.
- 4.10 We conduct all our teaching in an atmosphere of trust and respect for all.

5 The role of governors

- 5.1 Our governors support, monitor and review the school's approach to 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 used optimally to support teaching and learning;
- check teaching methods in the light of health and safety regulations;
- seek to ensure that our staff development and our performance management both promote good-quality teaching;
- monitor the effectiveness of the school's teaching and learning approaches through the school's self-review processes, which include governors taking an active responsibility for a subject area, keeping abreast with the subject and feeding back to the governing body.

6 The role of parents and carers

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

- by holding parent evenings to explain our school strategies for learning at St Joseph's
- by sending information to parents and carers, at the start of each term, which outlines the topics that the children will be studying during that term at school;
- by providing parents and carers annual reports in which we explain the progress made by each child, and indicate how the child can improve further;
- by explaining to parents and carers how they can support their children with homework, and suggesting, for example, regular shared reading with very young children, and support for older children with their projects and investigative work.

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

- to ensure that their child has the best timekeeping and attendance record possible;
- to ensure that their child is equipped for school with the correct uniform and PE kit;
- to do their best to keep their child healthy and fit to attend school;
- to inform school if there are matters outside of school that are likely to affect a child's performance or behaviour;
- to promote a positive attitude towards school and learning in general;
- to fulfil the requirements set out in the home-school agreement.

7 Monitoring and review

7.1 We are aware of the need to monitor the school's teaching and learning policy, and to review it regularly, so that we can take account of new initiatives and research, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school. We will therefore review this policy every two years, or earlier if necessary.

Signed: S Grange

Date: January 2012