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LEARNING AND TEACHING POLICY

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**Aiming high,
dreaming bigger,
praying together,
growing in God's love.**

Teaching and Learning Policy

Introduction

Our Catholic ethos underpins the agreed aims of the school. In the course of their daily work our teachers contribute to the development of this. They are enthusiastic, hardworking and committed to providing the best possible learning experience for our children.

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum, which develops the skills, concepts and knowledge necessary for future learning. We recognise that each child is an individual and value every child. We constantly try to improve what works best for all our children. Our policy is constantly evolving and is updated and referred to as required.

Aims

- To raise standards in school establishing expectations of learning and teaching in all subjects for teachers
- Teaching and learning is a partnership with each impacting on the other and that good learning comes from good teaching
- To ensure teachers provide learning opportunities which encourage a passion for learning and knowledge.
- To make tasks challenging, stimulating, achievable and enjoyable
- To promote continuity and coherence across the school via consistent implementation of this policy

In our school we want:

- Teaching that motivates and inspires all pupils to achieve their best work and promote inclusivity
- Opportunities for pupils to engage in a wide range of challenging learning experiences
- Appropriate continuity and progression in the learning of all pupils from the Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 6
- Staff to enjoy teaching and have a passion for learning
- Staff to continue to learn themselves
- Staff to be committed to high expectations and high achievement
- Staff to show professionalism at all times

In our school learning and teaching should ensure that all pupils:

- Work in a stimulating, safe and motivating environment
- Have the opportunity to be happy
- Make appropriate progress
- Engage and are encouraged to learn by promoting a sense of pride in their own achievements and the achievements of others
- Are motivated to learn and achieve high standards
- Become questioners and are able to develop learning through thinking effectively
- Give and receive feedback effectively
- Enjoy learning in school
- Are encouraged to discuss their learning with their parents/carers
- Behave well
- Treat others with respect
- Achieve the best they can

Learning

Pupils should experience a wide variety of activities which enables them to acquire new knowledge and develop their understanding and skills. They are expected to contribute to the development of their environment appropriately, for example by taking responsibility for organising displays of their own work and the work of others. All children are expected to work collaboratively with other pupils and adults. Pupils should have sufficient time to complete their tasks and must have opportunities to demonstrate an understanding of what they have learned. The children need to be clear about what they have to focus on. Next steps for learning should be discussed and formulated with the children.

There will always be difficulties ensuring that all pupils learn effectively and make progress, but by working as a team and seeking help from outside agencies, we strive to ensure that all of our pupils receive the best teaching and support to allow them to learn appropriately.

Teaching

In our school, we aim to:

- Promote effective and positive interaction between staff and pupils. Children should receive encouraging and positive feedback which motivates them and helps them know what to do next and how to improve further. Teachers should be sensitive to the needs of all pupils
- Promote high expectations. Teachers should set high but attainable challenges.
- Use a range of teaching strategies. These should support learning objectives. The range used should enable teachers to make sure that pupils apply themselves purposefully and confidently. A balance of approaches, relevant to the activities, should be used.
- Ensure a balanced use of explanation, demonstration, modelling, discussion, practice, investigation and problem solving to develop learning
- Use well-timed interventions to help the pupils make good progress

- Ensure responses are positive and encourage pupils in their learning. In addition, teaching should provide opportunities for pupils to formulate their own questions
- Ensure planning identifies, at appropriate levels of detail, objectives, methods, learning resources and the deployment of adults. This includes differentiation which could be by: task, response / questioning, outcome, grouping, guidance, support
- Deliver lessons with clear objectives, which are communicated effectively to pupils. Pupils should acquire knowledge, skills and understanding progressively and at an appropriate pace. Teachers should provide feedback to pupils about their progress. They should encourage, extend and challenge pupils appropriately (See Marking Policy)
- Provide opportunities for pupils to work individually, collaboratively and as a class
- Employ a range of organisational strategies.
- Acknowledge and make the best use of the significant key contribution of parents/carers, the community and work carried out at home
- Value and promote the partnership between home and school, in compliance with the school's policy for homework and the home-school agreement
- Know and understand the key areas on which the school is working. Participation in and contribution to Self-Evaluation Framework(SEF) and School Development Plan will ensure effective Continual Professional Development (C.P.D. which can be directed towards benefiting the children

In our school, lessons will:

- Have pace and challenge based on an assessment of children's needs. This is crucial to motivation and high standards
- Contain activities appropriate to learning objectives
- Be lively and well-paced
- Where possible, involve the children in the evaluation of their work
- Include clear success criteria
- Be cross curricular where possible

In conclusion we re-iterate our desire to provide all our pupils with a high level learning environment, accompanied by a high level teaching ethos promoting the school as a centre of excellence.

This policy should be read alongside the SEND, Assessment, Marking and policies.

This policy has been formally adopted by the *Governing Body of St Mary's Catholic Primary School*. It will be reviewed by the *Governors and Headteacher* in conjunction with the staff two years from the date below.

Signed..... (Chair of Governors)

Date.....