



TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY

INTRODUCTION

At Turnfurlong Infant School our intent is that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone; it should be engaging, meaningful and fun. Through our teaching we support the characteristics of effective learning that enable children to develop positive dispositions and attitudes to their learning. At the heart of our curriculum is a focus on developing children's language and literacy skills. Our wider school curriculum has been planned so that prior skills and knowledge in core and foundation subjects are built upon. Learning is therefore enriched and deepened across the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One.

Our school is inclusive and we believe that all pupils should be enabled to realise their potential by receiving a broad range of high quality, challenging learning experiences and opportunities across the curriculum.

The teaching and learning policy has been approved by the staff and governors of the school.

OBJECTIVES (Intent)

Children learn best when they are:

- actively involved in the learning process
- showing high levels of well-being and involvement
- given opportunities to ask questions and express opinions
- given opportunities to apply their skills and knowledge (problem solving, exploring and investigating, engaged in open-ended creative activity)
- able to achieve success
- clear about what they are expected to do
- challenged, inspired and stimulated
- given the opportunity to work individually, in pairs, groups and as a whole class
- provided with opportunities to talk about and review their learning.

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 the community
- help children grow into reliable, independent and positive citizens.

The school's objectives are to:

- ensure the school's teaching and learning policy is implemented consistently by all staff
- identify and remove barriers to learning
- ensure pupils have access to appropriately differentiated curriculum learning opportunities to match their ability
- ensure the classroom ethos and environment supports learning;
- ensure lessons are structured well, paced well and provide opportunities to extend and review learning
- ensure teachers' planning takes account of continuity and progression in learning, and takes account of pupils' prior attainment
- ensure pupils receive feedback on how they can improve their learning.

EFFECTIVE TEACHING (Implementation)

Our overall curriculum plan details what is to be taught to each year group to ensure continuity and progression in children's learning. These objectives are taken from the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for Key Stage 1 and the document 'Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage'. The organisation and implementation of our curriculum enables children to make connections in their knowledge and develop and deepen their skills from the Early Years Foundation Stage to the end of Key Stage 1.

We base our teaching on our knowledge of the children's level of attainment and use this to plan for next steps in children's learning. We strive to ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to each child's level of ability. When planning work for children with Special Education Needs we give due regard to information and targets contained in the children's Support Plans.

We set next steps for the children in each academic year and we share these with children and their parents. We review and update the progress of each child on a termly basis and set revised targets.

Our topic based curriculum provides the opportunities for children to develop a range of skills and to deepen their learning by applying their knowledge in different contexts across the curriculum.

These include:

- discovering and making connections through hands-on experiences (*fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest across the curriculum, drama, science investigations*)
- open-ended creative activity (*art, design technology, drama, storytelling and role play, dance, music, ICT*)
- questioning and exploring, investigation, problem solving, researching, finding out (*mathematical problem solving, science investigations, history, geography, design and technology challenges, ICT*)
- comparing, evaluating, developing and improving (*mathematical problem solving, science investigations, history, geography, design and technology challenges, ICT*)

Effective teaching in the school is characterised by:

- well-structured lessons, which have an opening, a main part and a plenary
- lessons being delivered using a variety of teaching approaches
- a classroom climate based on mutual respect and focused on learning
- assessment, recording and reporting of pupils' progress that informs planning and teaching
- clear learning objectives set which are shared with and understood by pupils
- the teacher modelling and demonstrating expected learning outcomes
- high expectations
- good discipline and behaviour management
- the effective use of resources, which include ICT
- the effective use of teaching assistants
- pupils being encouraged to take greater responsibility for their own learning
- classroom displays being utilised to extend, support and enhance pupils' learning
- teachers having secure subject knowledge.

ASSESSMENT (Impact)

Assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning process. It is an ongoing process, which takes account of pupils' different rates of learning development. All children are entitled to have their learning achievements and progression recognised. The school has a policy for feedback and assessment. This policy is consistently followed by all staff.

All teachers observe, assess, reflect and review the achievements of each pupil on a regular basis. They make ongoing observations of pupils' learning in the classroom and regularly analyse pupils' work, in order to identify their learning needs and next steps. All teachers keep detailed assessment records on the pupils they teach.

Pupils are given regular constructive feedback on their learning and this helps them to know when they have mastered a skill, or how they can improve. Pupils' learning achievements are also recognised through teachers' verbal praise, having their work displayed in the classroom, the awarding of stickers and house points, and opportunities to celebrate pupils' learning achievements in school assemblies.

Moderation of assessment takes place in the school in year groups and across the whole school. We attend meetings led by the Local Authority for Statutory Assessment in Reception and Year 2. We also meet with other local schools throughout the year to ensure accuracy of assessment in all year groups in writing.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Headteacher and senior leadership team monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and learning throughout the school within performance management procedures.

The senior leadership team support the continuing professional development of staff in relation to improving teaching and learning, and addressing any issues arising from pupils' underachievement.

Subject co-ordinators are responsible for overseeing that their subject procedures, schemes of work and programmes of study keep teaching and learning as a key focus.

All teachers are responsible for the quality of teaching and learning within their classroom.

Learning support assistants provide targeted additional learning support, which is delivered within the classroom, to extend learning and enhance curriculum access. Alternatively, they may deliver a specific learning programme as part of a 'catch-up' learning intervention, to narrow the learning gap for specific pupils.

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 safeguarding and 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 school teaching and learning policies through the school self-review processes. These include reports from subject co-ordinators and the headteacher's report to governors as well as a review of the in-service training sessions attended by our staff.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

We believe that parents are children's first educators and have a fundamental role to play in helping children to learn. We inform parents about what and how their children are learning by:

- holding parents' evenings to explain school strategies
- sharing information about the curriculum with parents on the school website
- sending an annual report 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 work at home through meetings held at school and online. We suggest, for example, regular shared reading with very young children, and support for older children with finding out about topics.

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

PROVISION AND RESOURCES

The school offers a continuum of teaching and learning provision to meet a diversity of pupils' needs. Although all classes are mixed ability, class teachers have the flexibility to set smaller ability groups within their class, for more focused learning, in particular in relation to English and phonics.

Computing and multimedia learning resources are available in the computer room and in each classroom to support and extend pupils' learning. Each year group has access to a trolley of i-pads to support learning.

Every year group has access to an additional learning support assistant, whose key role is to improve curriculum access, and extend and consolidate pupils' learning during their learning support work.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

We are aware of the need to review the school teaching and learning policy regularly so that we can take account of new initiatives, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school.

The quality of teaching and learning is evaluated using the following performance indicators:

- analysis of pupil progress and attainment data
- scrutiny of teacher planning
- lesson observations
- 'book looks'
- moderation of pupils' work from across the curriculum
- tracking of individual pupils, or cohorts of pupils
- discussions with pupils about their progress
- discussion with teachers about pupil progress
- evaluations from the impact of staff CPD and INSET on teaching and learning
- evaluation of the impact of additional resources, e.g. Learning Support Assistants
- evidence from parental and pupil surveys/questionnaires
- success in meeting teaching and learning priorities on the school improvement plan
- reduction in the number of pupils excluded from school, or referred for additional learning support
- improved continuity and progression in pupils' learning, during cross-phase transition
- reports from external advisors

- evidence from the school's Ofsted Inspection report.

The evidence gathered from monitoring the impact of the teaching and learning policy engages all stakeholders in the process.

The Performance Indicators are:

- 1 The classroom organisation is effective and works smoothly.
- 2 The class is manageable and effective.
- 3 The quality of the work produced is of a very high standard.
- 4 The noise level is appropriate to the tasks being undertaken.
- 5 Tasks are completed on time
- 6 Class groupings and organisation are managed to assist the learning outcomes of the lessons.
- 7 Supply staff and support staff are able to work easily and comfortably within the environment.
- 8 The pupils know their classroom and manage themselves within it.