



TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY

Signed *V. Garrett* Vice Chair of Governors

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Teaching and Learning Policy

1.1 At Northwood Primary School we believe that good teaching means effective learning and that is what we should be striving for in every lesson. Our teaching and learning policy aims to ensure that the children at our school are provided with high quality learning experiences that lead to a consistently high level of pupil achievement.

Rationale

Our teaching for learning policy is at the heart of all we are doing at Northwood. It sets out clear expectations, provides a standard uniform approach, can be easily monitored and ensures equal opportunity for all our pupils.

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 children to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential.

2.2 Through our teaching we aim to:

- Ensure all children make good academic progress.
- 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 this community;
- help children grow into resilient, independent and positive citizens for the 21st century
- develop a growth mind set regarding intelligence

We use the following documents in our planning for effective learning: EYFS curriculum , 2014 National Curriculum, International Primary Curriculum, Jenny Mosley's Circle time and Golden Rules.

3. Effective learning results in:-

1. Knowing you have succeeded
2. Feeling you can do more
3. Explaining what you have learned
4. Applying it to other situations
5. Teaching it to someone else
6. Feeling good about yourself

3.3 We encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning, to be involved as far as possible in reviewing the way they learn, and to reflect on how they learn – what helps them learn and what makes it difficult for them to learn.

4 Effective teaching

4.1 Effective learning only comes about from effective teaching. When teaching we focus on motivating the children and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. 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.

For effective teaching to take place there are a number of strategies that we feel are needed. Whilst it is impossible to contain all of these elements in every lesson, we believe that our lessons must contain a number of these listed below:-

- A clear learning objective shared with the children
- A clear link to previous and future learning
- A clear outcome to be achieved at the end of the lesson;
- A review of the learning during and after the lesson;
- A purposeful well prepared plan;
- Appropriate challenge for all children;
- Teacher modelling;
- Good questioning;
- Interaction between teacher and pupil and pupil and pupil;
- Pace;
- Appropriately and readily resourced;
- Enthusiastic delivery;
- Fun;
- Involvement of all the children;
- Praise and assessment which is task centred and not ego driven

4.2 We base our teaching on our knowledge of the children's level of attainment. Our prime focus is to develop further the knowledge and skills of the 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 MEAP's. All adults in school have high expectations of all our pupils.

4.3 We set targets for the children in each academic year and we share these targets with children and their parents. We review the progress of each child termly and set revised targets accordingly.

4.4 We plan our lessons with clear learning objectives. Our lesson plans contain information about the tasks to be set, the resources needed, and the way we assess the children's work. We evaluate all lessons so that we can modify and improve our teaching in the future.

4.5 Each of our teachers makes a special effort to establish good working relationships with all children in the class. We treat the children with kindness and respect. We treat them fairly and give them equal opportunity to take part in class activities. All our teachers follow the school policy with

regard to positive behaviour management. We set and agree with children the school/class code of conduct. We expect all children to comply with these 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 make inappropriate choices we follow the guidelines for sanctions as outlined in our school behaviour policy.

4.6 We ensure that all tasks and activities that the children do are safe. When we plan to take children out of school, we first inform parents and obtain their permission.

4.7 We deploy learning 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 of lessons and storage of classroom equipment.

4.9 All our teachers reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and plan their professional development needs 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 Learning Environment

All areas and resources of the school including the classrooms should be clearly labelled. Children should be made aware of these resource areas at the beginning of each year. The learning environment should be organised to ensure that the children have the opportunity to learn in different ways. These include:

- investigation and problem solving;
- research
- group work;
- paired work;
- independent work;
- whole-class work;
- asking and answering questions;
- use of the computer;
- fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest;
- creative activities;
- watching and responding to DVDs, IWB presentations, musical or tape-recorded material;
- debates, role-plays and oral presentations;
- designing and making things;
- Participation in athletic or physical activity.

Learning takes place in an environment which is:

- challenging and stimulating;
- peaceful and calm
- happy and organised

- well resourced and clearly labelled
- encouraging and appreciative
- welcoming
- provides equal opportunities
- provides a working atmosphere

We believe that a stimulating environment sets the climate for learning, and an exciting classroom promotes independent use of resources and high-quality work by the children. Each classroom has well ordered clearly labelled resources.

Routines and Rules

Routines and the Golden Rules in the classroom contribute to an effective learning environment. To be effective they should be:

- agreed by the children and clearly understood
- fair and consistent
- realistic and positive
- kept to a minimum but enforced
- All rules should result in the children knowing the boundaries of behaviour and should be set within the terms of the Behaviour policy.

Achievement

- verbal or written praise by teachers, peers, Head teacher and parents;
- displays of work;
- opportunities to perform or share;
- badges, stickers, certificates

5 The role of governors

5.1 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 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 self-review processes. These include reports from key stage leaders and the annual head teacher's report to governors as well as a review of the in-service training sessions attended by our staff.

6 The role of parents

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

- Our 'open door' policy ensures that parents are welcome in school every day and this valuable handover time, especially in Reception and KS1, enables parents to work with their children on early morning activities and maintain a dialogue with the class teacher or TA on a daily basis.
- holding parents' evenings to explain our school strategies for teaching literacy, numeracy and health education;
- sending information to parents at the start of each term in which we outline the topics that the children will be studying during that term at school;
- sending regular reports 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 homework. We suggest, 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 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 of 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.

7 Monitoring and review

7.1 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. We will review our policy during the autumn term of 2015.