

Duncombe Primary School

Teaching and Learning Policy

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” William Butler Yeats

At Duncombe School, we believe that learning should be a rewarding and an enjoyable experience for everyone. Through our teaching we equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to make informed choices. We believe that appropriate teaching and learning experiences help children to lead happy and rewarding lives.

School Aims

- to provide a happy, caring and challenging environment in which everyone can acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to themselves and society.
- to ensure that everyone achieves their full potential intellectually, physically, emotionally and socially.

Effective Teaching

When teaching is at its most effective, the following are common factors:

- Classroom Management is clear to the children and promotes independent learning.
- The classroom/school ethos is strong and promotes a happy and enjoyable learning environment.
- The teacher has good subject knowledge.
- There are clear learning objectives.
- Planning is clearly differentiated and tasks match each child's ability.
- Assessment informs the next step of learning.
- Children's targets are appropriate, clear to the children and manageable for the teacher.

Effective Teachers

Effective teachers show the following qualities: They should be

- flexible
- inspirational
- co-operative
- respectful
- able to self-evaluate
- good communicators
- risk takers
- able to try and have a sense of humour!

Styles of Teaching/Effective Learning

We acknowledge that people learn in many different ways and we recognise the need to develop strategies that allow all children to learn in ways that best suit them. We take this into account when planning teaching and learning styles. We offer opportunities for children to learn in different ways. These include:

- investigation and problem solving
- research and finding out
- group work
- paired work
- independent work
- whole class work
- asking and answering questions
- use of ICT
- fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest
- watching television and responding to musical or taped recorded material
- debates, role plays and oral presentations
- designing and making things
- participating in athletic or physical activity

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.

The Learning Environment

We believe that the classroom, which is the primary place of learning, is paramount to good teaching and learning. The following points are essential:

- that the classroom is a happy place where the children feel relaxed and at home
- that the classroom is a safe place
- that display encourages children to learn - it should be bright, lively and at times interactive
- that it should be well resourced and that these resources should be accessible for the children when appropriate.

Continuous Professional Development

At Duncombe School we have a commitment to Continuous Professional Development for all our staff for the following reasons:

- We believe that high standards in teaching and learning depend upon relevant, focussed and effective professional development opportunities for teachers.
- Becoming and remaining a good teacher, keeping knowledge of curriculum subjects up-to-date and being able to make the most of new technology all require continuous professional development.
- Teachers who are involved in and have enthusiasm for, lifelong learning themselves are excellent role models to pupils.
- A commitment to the development of staff members leads to greater self-esteem, self-confidence and enthusiasm, better quality teaching and a substantially greater capacity in the school as a whole for continuous self-improvement

The Role of the Head teacher

It is the responsibility of the Head teacher to facilitate good teaching and learning. In order to achieve this, he/she must:

- have a clear vision of what good teaching and learning looks like
- be inspirational
- monitor, advise and support
- be at the heart of the ethos of the whole school
- celebrate all achievements and challenge where necessary
- assist staff with their professional development
- provide staff with the resources they need to carry out the job

The Role of the Governors

The Governors determine, support, monitor and review the school policies on teaching and learning. In particular they:

- Support the staff by allocating resources effectively
- Ensure that the school building and premises are best used to support successful teaching and learning and that they conform to health and safety regulations
- monitor, through the Curriculum committee, 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 through the school self-review process.

The Role of Parents

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:

- Class newsletters outlining the curriculum
- sending reports to parents in which we explain the progress made by their child and with clear targets for improvement
- explaining to parents how they can support their children with homework
- holding parents evenings where their child's work can be reviewed and their progress discussed

We believe that parents have the responsibility to support their children and the school in implementing school policies. This can be done by:

- discussing the home/school agreement regularly with their children.
- ensuring the children has the best attendance record possible
- ensuring that their child is equipped for school with the appropriate uniform and P.E. kit
- inform school if there are matters outside of school that are likely to affect the child's performance or behaviour
- promote positive attitude towards school and learning in general

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 in the physical environment of the school.

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