



St Mary's RC Primary School

Teaching and Learning Policy

Saint Mary's RC Primary School Sabden

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1 Introduction

- 1.1** At **St Mary's RC Primary** School we believe in the concept of lifelong learning and the idea that both adults and children learn new things every day. We maintain that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone; it should be fun. 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.

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:
- 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 reliable, independent and positive citizens.

3 Effective learning

- 3.1** 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.
- 3.2** We offer opportunities for children to learn in different ways. These include:
- investigation and problem solving;
 - research and finding out;
 - group work;
 - pair work;
 - independent work;
 - whole-class work;
 - asking and answering questions;
 - use of technology;
 - fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest;
 - creative activities;

- watching video/film and responding to musical material;
- debates, role-plays and oral presentations;
- designing and making things;
- participating in athletic or physical activity.

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.

3.4 We support the children to understand and use the correct behaviours for learning. We present these as 'The Super Seven'. These are

- Independence
- Confidence
- Resilience
- Perseverance
- Creativity
- Personal Goals
- Problems faced by others

4 Effective teaching

4.1 When teaching we focus on motivating the children and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. We use the school curriculum maps to guide our teaching.

4.2 We base our teaching on our knowledge of the children's start points and levels 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 and needs. We have high expectations for all children.

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 review interventions and targets.

4.4 We plan our lessons with clear learning objectives. We take these objectives from the National Curriculum. 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 excellent working relationships with all children in the class. We treat the children with kindness, love and respect. We treat them fairly and give them equal opportunities to take part in class activities. We set and agree with children the 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 model and promote behaviour at all times. When children misbehave we follow the guidelines for advice and sanctions as outlined in our school behaviour policy.

- 4.6** We ensure that all tasks and activities that the children do are safe. This includes activities outside of the school grounds.
- 4.7** We deploy Teaching Assistants and other adult helpers as effectively as possible. Within each class we work as a team to support the pupils in our care.
- 4.8** Our classrooms are attractive and bright learning environments. We change displays at least once a term, to ensure that the classroom reflects the topics studied by the children. We ensure that all children have the opportunity to display their work. All classrooms have a range of resources and displays to support learning. 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.
- 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 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 subject leaders and Head teacher's reports 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:
- holding twice yearly parents' evenings
 - sending information to parents which outline the topics that the children will be studying during that half 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.
- 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 each year.

Policy date – September 2021



All are welcome to here to walk with Jesus as we love, learn and flourish.