



Policy on Learning and Teaching

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Across the Wolds Federation, we believe in the concept of lifelong learning, and in 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; in short, 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, both indoors and outdoors. At our school, we provide a rich and varied learning environment that allows all 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 to build positive relationships with other people;
 - model appropriate behaviour and inter-personal skills;
 - develop children's self-respect, encourage them to understand the ideas, attitudes and values of others, and teach them to respect other people's feelings;
 - show respect for a diverse range of cultures and, in so doing, to promote positive attitudes towards other people;
 - develop a respect for the environment through using the outdoors as often as possible;
 - enable children to understand their community, and help them feel valued as part of it;
 - help children grow into reliable, independent and positive citizens.

3 Effective learning

- 3.1 Research tells us that people learn in many different ways, and respond best to different types of input (visual, auditory and kinaesthetic); we must therefore deliver teaching in different ways to address the needs of all our learners. We take into account the different forms of intelligence (e.g. mathematical/logical, visual/spatial, interpersonal, musical) when planning our teaching.
- 3.2 We ensure the best possible environment for learning by developing a positive atmosphere in which pupils feel safe and valued. An environment where they feel comfortable with challenge and confident of success.
- 3.3 All teaching will be structured to maximise learning opportunities and lessons will be planned in accordance with the following principles:
- the teaching should build on previous learning;
 - it should give pupils the 'big picture' of the lesson, making clear links with reality;
 - the teacher should explain the learning objectives, and why the lesson is important;
 - the lesson should be presented in a range of styles;
 - it should allow opportunities for the pupils to build up their own understanding through various activities;
 - it should allow opportunities for the children to review what has been learnt;
 - it should have built-in opportunities for feedback to the children, celebrating success and reviewing learning strategies;

- the teaching should indicate what the next step in the learning will be;
- worksheets will be avoided where possible;
- teaching will take place outdoors whenever appropriate.

3.4 We offer opportunities for children to learn in different ways. These include:

- investigation and problem-solving;
- research and discovery;
- group work;
- pair work;
- independent work;
- whole-class work;
- asking and answering questions;
- use of ICT;
- fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest;
- creative activities;
- watching selected television programmes/DVDs and responding to musical or tape-recorded material;
- debates, role-plays and oral presentations;
- designing and making things;
- participation in athletic or physical activity.

3.5 We encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning, to be involved as far as possible in reviewing the way in which 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 When we are teaching, we focus on motivating all the children, and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum, so that they reach the highest level of personal achievement. We use the school creative curriculum to guide our teaching. This sets out the aims, objectives and drivers of the school, and details what is to be taught to each year group.
- 4.2 Teachers make ongoing assessments of each child's progress, and they use this information when planning their lessons. It enables them to take into account the abilities of all their children. Our prime focus is to develop further the skills of all our 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 Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Teachers modify teaching and learning as appropriate for children with disabilities. We value each child as a unique individual, and teachers are familiar with the relevant equal opportunities legislation covering race, gender and disability. We will aim to meet the needs of all our children, and to ensure that we meet all statutory requirements related to matters of inclusion.
- 4.3 We set academic targets for the children throughout each year. We review the progress of each child throughout the academic year, and set revised targets.
- 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 in which we assess the children's work. We evaluate all lessons, so that we can modify and improve our future teaching.
- 4.5 Each member of our staff makes a special effort to establish good working relationships with all the children in the class. We treat the children with kindness and respect. We recognise that they are all individuals with different needs, but we treat them fairly, and give

them equal opportunity to take part in class activities. All of our teachers follow the school policy with regard to discipline and classroom management. We set and agree with children the class rules, and we expect all children to comply with the 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 behaviour at all times. When children misbehave, we follow the guidelines for sanctions as outlined in our policy on behaviour.

- 4.6 We are committed to ensuring that all tasks and activities that the children perform are safe. When we plan to take children out of school, we follow a strict set of procedures to ensure safety: the venue is visited, risk assessments are completed, and various permissions are obtained. We inform parents or carers, and obtain their permission, before the visit takes place.
- 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.
- 4.8 Our classrooms are highly engaging, interactive learning environments. We change displays at least once a term, so that the classroom reflects the topics studied by the children. We ensure that all children have the opportunity to display their best work at some time during the year. All classrooms have a range of dictionaries and of both fiction and non-fiction books, as well as displays relating to literacy and numeracy. We also use displays as learning prompts for the children. We believe that a stimulating environment sets the climate for learning, and that an exciting classroom promotes independent use of resources, which results in high-quality work by the children.
- 4.9 All of our teachers reflect on their strengths and weaknesses, and plan their professional development 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 a positive atmosphere of trust and respect for all.
Rule 67 – bad moods stay at home!

5 The role of governors

- 5.1 Our governors support, monitor and review the school's approach to 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 used optimally to support teaching and learning;
 - check teaching methods in the light of health and safety regulations;
 - seek to ensure that our staff development and our performance management both promote good-quality teaching;
 - monitor the effectiveness of the school's teaching and learning approaches through the school's self-review processes, which include reports from subject leaders, the annual Headteacher's report to governors, and a review of the in-service training sessions attended by staff.

6 The role of parents and carers

- 6.1 We believe that parents and carers have a fundamental role to play in helping children to learn. We do all we can to inform parents and carers about what and how their children are learning:
- by holding parents' evenings to explain our school strategies;
 - by sending information to parents and carers, at the start of each term, which outlines the topics that the children will be studying during that term at school;

- by sending parents and carers reports in which we explain the progress made by each child, and indicate how the child can improve further;
- by explaining to parents and carers how they can support their children with homework, and suggesting, 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 and carers have the responsibility to support their children and the school in implementing school policies. We would therefore like parents and carers:

- to ensure that their child has the best attendance record possible;
- to ensure that their child is equipped for school with the correct uniform and PE kit;
- to do their best to keep their child healthy and fit to attend school;
- to inform school if there are matters outside of school that are likely to affect a child's performance or behaviour;
- to promote a positive attitude towards school and learning in general;
- to support their child with their reading progress.

7 Monitoring and review

7.1 We are aware of the need to monitor the school's teaching and learning policy, and to review it regularly, so that we can take account of new initiatives and research, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school. We will therefore review this policy every two years, or earlier if necessary.

Signed:

Date: April 2016