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# TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY

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## Introduction

At Shiney Row Primary School, we believe in the concept of lifelong learning and that both adults and children learn new things every day. Learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone - it should be both memorable and worthwhile.

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 develop a love for learning and help them lead happy and productive lives.

## **Aims and Objectives**

At Shiney Row Primary School we provide a rich and varied learning environment that allows all children to develop their skills and abilities in a way that both challenges and supports their development.

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;
- 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;
- enable children to understand their community, and help them feel valued as part of it;
- help children grow into reliable, independent and positive citizens.

## **Effective Learning**

We ensure the best possible environment for learning by developing a positive atmosphere in which pupils feel safe and feel they belong, in which they enjoy being challenged, but in which they enjoy learning, and know that they will succeed. We encourage children to be confident, independent learning who enjoy challenge and doing their best.

All teaching is structured to maximise learning opportunities and lessons are planned in accordance with the following principles:

- the teaching should build on previous learning;
- it should give pupils the 'big picture' of the lesson (why we are learning this);
- 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.

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 television and responding to musical or recorded material;
- debates, role-plays and oral presentations;
- designing and making things;
- participation 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 in which they learn, and to reflect on how they learn – what helps them learn, and what makes it difficult for them to learn.

## **Effective Teaching and Learning**

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 curriculum to guide our teaching. This sets out the details of what is to be taught to each year group.

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 knowledge and 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 (IEP's). 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 strive to meet the needs of all our children, and to ensure that we meet all statutory requirements related to matters of inclusion.

We set academic targets for the children in each year, and we share these targets with children and their parents. We review the progress of each child and at the end of the academic year, and then set revised targets.

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 in which we assess the children's work. We evaluate all lessons, so that we can modify and improve our future teaching.

Each of our teachers 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 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 misbehave, we follow the guidelines for sanctions as outlined in our policy on behaviour.

We try to ensure 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 and obtain their permission before the visit will take place.

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 and storage of classroom equipment.

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.

We conduct all our teaching in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect.

### **The Role of Governors**

Our Governors determine, 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 presentations from subject leaders, the annual Headteacher's report to Governors, and a review of the in-service training sessions attended by staff.

### **The Role of Parents**

Parents have a fundamental role to play in helping children to learn and do all we can to inform parents about what and how their children are learning:-

- by holding parents' meetings to explain our school strategies for literacy, numeracy and health education;
- by sending information to parents, at the start of each term, which outlines the topics that the children will be studying during that term at school;
- by sending parents regular reports in which we explain the progress made by each child, and indicate how the child can improve further;
- by explaining to parents 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.

We believe that parents have the responsibility to support their children and the school in implementing school policies. We would therefore like parents:-

- 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 fulfil the requirements set out in the home-school agreement.

### **Monitoring and Review**

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.