



Learning & Teaching Policy

'Be wise, together we succeed'

Date approved: March 2019	Review date: March 2021
Kayleigh Reading	
Headteacher	Signed: _____ Date: March 2019
Chair of Governors	
Kate Fowkes	Signed: _____ Date: March 2019
2017 update: reviewed and updated all aspects of the policy reflecting school practise	
March 2019: reviewed and updated inline with current pedagogy within school	

"Education is not the filling of the pail but the lighting of the fire"

W.B. Yeats

Our Mission Statement 'Be wise, together we succeed' reflects our beliefs and understanding that is expanded upon in this policy. We ensure that pupils at our school are provided with a wide variety of high quality learning experiences that support the development of the whole child; academically, socially, emotionally and as a good citizen, reflecting British Values.

Aims:

Our aims for learning and teaching are that all children will:

- Grow into questioning, independent, citizens, who stand up for what they believe in, follow the rule of law and understand democracy
- Realise their potential in terms of academic achievement, aesthetic appreciation, spiritual, moral, cultural awareness and physical skills
- Become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent life-long learners
- Foster self-esteem and resilience through a sense of achievement, leading to self-motivation and increased confidence
- Learn to respect and tolerate others, developing a good sense of responsibility through understanding their own rights
- Develop an understanding of their own community and beyond, allowing them to feel valued and positively contribute to their community and beyond.

Principles:

Learning must be purposeful within a stimulating environment to provide a rich and varied curriculum of quality and enjoyment. We believe that effective learning and teaching is best achieved by the whole school community working together as a team.

We welcome and encourage the involvement of parents, governors and others within the community.

Teachers & staff will work towards the **aims** by:

- providing a challenging, stimulating and broad curriculum, designed to enable all children to reach the highest standards of achievement
- using flexible grouping depending on the needs of the child
- adopt cutaway teaching styles to ensure that teaching and learning is personalised to each individual child
- knowing each child's next steps in their learning
- communicate next steps to the child – verbally or written, as appropriate
- making learning fun and school a place that children want to come to learn
- providing consistently good teaching & learning opportunities
- being an outstanding role model for children
- amend the 'flow' of a lesson depending on the needs of the children
- having the highest expectations of potentially what each child can achieve
- providing a stimulating, tidy environment which ensures full and equal access to the curriculum for all children
- having excellent subject knowledge of all subject matter to be taught
- encouraging pupils to become independent, resilient and well-motivated learners, sharing achievements and supporting challenges
- working alongside parents/carers to support a child's learning and development
- working collaboratively with colleagues to fully implement school policies & obtain a commonality of practice
- using classroom environments, including Working Walls, to present Learning Journeys for children to use in lessons
- provide access to a range of resources so that children can access the learning at their level
- learning from other colleagues' expertise in order to improve their own practice
- ensuring learning is pitched appropriately, is progressive and continuous, using resources shared by leaders, knowing the children's prior knowledge and how to deepen their understanding even further
- plan a clear Learning Journey with specific Learning Objectives, which may be differentiated, and with specific Success Criteria, which may also be differentiated – Success Criteria may be specific to the genre, for example, or the Learning Objective of a lesson
- recognising and being aware of the needs of each child; both academic and pastoral
- having a positive attitude to change, advice and the development of their own expertise.

Children will work towards the **aims** by:

- following the Merton Junior School code
- respecting others within the school community
- working together cooperatively and listening and enjoying new ideas
- taking responsibility for their own learning and behaviour
- help to organise their own resources
- being at school on time and in class ready for lessons after break and lunchtime
- doing homework when required and returning it to school on time
- always doing their best and producing work of a high quality, at all times
- approaching learning with a positive mindset

- asking questions and challenging ideas

Parents will work towards the **aims** by:

- ensuring that children attend school in good health
- ensure that children attend regularly and arrive on time punctually
- ensure that children have all the equipment they need to enjoy school (PE kit)
- being positive and realistic about their child's achievements
- maintaining appropriate contact with staff to discuss their child's progress and achievement (parents' meetings/home-school books)
- providing support for the policies and everyday routines of the school
- supporting their child with homework tasks, making sure it is completed and returned to school on time
- allowing their child to become more independent and take increasing responsibility for themselves as they move through the school

All members of the school community will work towards the **aims** by:

- fostering and promoting good relationships and a sense of belonging to the school community
- working as a team, supporting and encouraging one another
- seeing everyone as individuals, respecting their rights, values and beliefs
- providing a caring and well ordered environment so that all within are able to achieve
- offering equal opportunities in all aspects of school life, recognising and respecting different cultures

Effective Learning & Teaching:

Learning and Teaching happens within many different contexts: lessons, routines and events. We strive to offer our pupils a wide variety of experiences to facilitate this: concerts, performances, lessons which follow a scheme of work, assemblies, start and end of the day, break times, lunchtimes, library visits, homework, sporting events, field study trips, visits to museums, residential trips, visitors into school, themed days and weeks and many more...

Effective Learning:

We acknowledge that people learn in many different ways and when planning lessons, take this into account.

Children learn best when they:

- are happy, and engaged in the learning activity
- feel safe, confident and secure; both physically and emotionally
- interested, inspired and motivated
- given work at an appropriate level that will lead to achievement, challenge and success
- clearly understand the expectations, success criteria and learning objective, linked to the real world
- feel confident to fail – have a positive, growth mindset
- access to water (water bottles)
- given time to reflect and share their learning and ideas
- gain approval through success and have their opinions valued

We encourage children to take responsibility and to be involved in their own learning through reflecting on how they learn what helps them to learn, and what makes it difficult for them to learn.

Effective Teaching:

We strive for consistently effective teaching.

Effective teaching takes place when a lesson contains a number of the following:

- excellent subject knowledge from the teacher
- a clear and purposeful objective shared with the children
- links to previous learning and future learning
- a clear outcome (success criteria) to be achieved by the end of the lesson
- sharing of a good example
- a review of learning at appropriate times within the lesson
- appropriate challenge for all children
- effective, skilful questioning to support, extend & assess to probe understanding
- pupil active involvement
- constructive feedback to pupils; written and verbal
- successful relationships with pupils based on consistency, trust and mutual respect
- good learning pace
- assessment for learning which practises, extends or addresses gaps
- a variety of methods used – individual, group, class teaching
- appropriately resourced
- enthusiastic and dynamic delivery
- the teacher enjoys teaching the lesson
- homework is seen as a valuable teaching & learning element
- high expectations
- pupils make progress which is rapid & sustained to support achievement

The Learning Environment:

The Learning environment should be well organised to ensure that all the children have the opportunity to learn effectively and in different ways. We believe learning best takes place in an environment which is:

- happy, encouraging, bright and welcoming
- celebrating success
- challenging and stimulating
- well resourced and clearly labelled
- organised to support learning, making it accessible
- reflecting the high expectations that we expect of our children
- promoting our broad and balanced curriculum
- at an appropriate temperature, with access to fresh air
- tidy!