



St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School

'Together we learn and grow through worship and celebration'

Teaching and Learning

Committee responsible for policy	Curriculum and Achievement
Statutory/Non-statutory	Non STATUTORY
Frequency of Review	Free to determine – every 3 years or earlier if required
Date of last review Approved by Staff/ SLT/Committee/FGB	September 2015
Date of next review	September 2018
Purpose of policy	To understand the range of teaching strategies that can be employed to support children's learning and progress.
Consultation	Staff
Links to other policies	All other subject policies Marking, Planning and Assessment

Teaching and Learning Policy

At St Edmund's 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.

Our purpose is to offer a curriculum which is broad, balanced and differentiated and which meets the requirements of the Education Act relating to the National Curriculum, Religious Education and collective worship. We aim to ensure that children's learning is progressive and continuous.

We encourage children to be actively involved in their learning, taking increasing control of their own learning. We are aiming for children to become independent learners as they grow to adulthood.

Aims

We believe that people learn best in different ways. At St Edmund's, we provide a rich and varied learning environment that allows children to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential.

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

Effective Learning

Teachers are aware of the key principles of learning whereby each child:

- enjoys equality of opportunity
- has a positive image of themselves
- is actively involved in their own learning
- develops personal and social skills
- is motivated through understanding the nature of the task and able to use what is learned for their own purpose
- It is agreed that children learn when:
 - they are interested and motivated
 - learning objectives are clarified and they see a purpose to their learning
 - a variety of teaching methods are employed, allowing for differentiation of work by task or outcome
 - they are encouraged, praised and supported and their achievements celebrated
 - teacher's expectations are high, but realistic and understood by the children
 - they are working at their own pace and appropriate level to facilitate individual learning needs

Opportunities are offered for children to learn in different ways

- investigation and problem solving
- research and finding out
- group work
- pair work
- independent work
- whole-class work

- asking and answering questions
- use of ICT
- fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest
- visitors and workshop in school
- creative activities
- watching television and responding to musical or tape-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 they learn, and to reflect on how they learn – what helps them learn and what makes it difficult for them to learn.

Effective Teaching

When teaching, teachers focus on motivating the children and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. The school curriculum plan is used to direct teaching. This sets out the aims, objectives and values of the school and details what is to be taught to each year group.

Teaching is based on knowledge of the children’s level of attainment, gained through regular ongoing assessment. The prime focus is to develop further the knowledge and skills of the children. Teachers 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 teachers differentiate tasks according to those individual needs. Teachers have high expectations of all children.

Academic targets are set for the children in each academic year and these are shared with children and their parents. The progress of each child is regularly reviewed and the targets revised accordingly.

Lessons are planned with clear learning objectives and these are taken from the National Curriculum. Lesson plans contain information about the tasks to be set and the resources needed. Lessons are evaluated so that they can be modified and improved in the future.

Each teacher makes a special effort to establish good working relationships with all children in the class. Children are treated fairly and with kindness and respect and are given equal opportunities to take part in class activities. Teachers follow the school policy for behaviour and discipline. Classroom codes of conduct are agreed at the start of each year and children are expected to comply with these rules in order to promote the best learning opportunities for all. When children do not behave as expected, the sanctions and procedures laid out in the behaviour policy are followed.

Teachers take steps to ensure that all tasks and activities that the children do are safe. When teachers plan to take children out of school, parents are required to give permission.

Teaching assistants and other adult helpers are deployed as effectively as possible. Sometimes they work with individual children and sometimes they work with small groups; this maybe either inside or outside of the classroom.

All classrooms have a range of equipment to support learning such as dictionaries, thesaurus, mini-whiteboards, and maths packs. They also have role play area for the younger classes, role play displays, as well as displays relating to literacy, numeracy, and themes which reflect their current learning. We believe that a stimulating environment sets a climate for learning, independence and high quality work.

All teachers reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and plan their professional development needs accordingly. Teachers are supported as far as possible in developing their skills, so that they can continually improve their practice.

Equal Opportunities

All children have equal access to the curriculum and resources, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion or ability. Teachers aim to portray positive role models of gender, race, ethnicity and disabilities through display and in their teaching.

Spiritual, Moral and Cultural Development

Wherever possible, teachers aim to develop a sense of awe and wonder through the curriculum that is provided. They aim to raise awareness of different cultures, developing understanding and tolerance for differences. The school aims to enable children to develop into responsible members of society, showing respect for their surroundings and others.

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:

- holding parents' evenings to explain school strategies for teaching literacy, numeracy and health education
- sending information to parents at the start of each half term in which the curriculum for the coming half term is outlined
- sending annual reports to parents which explains the progress made by each child and indicates how the child can improve further
- explaining to parents how they can support their children with homework
- being available for parents to discuss their child's progress or any issues that they may be concerned about

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

Monitoring and Review

The headteacher is responsible for the day to day organisation of the curriculum. The Leadership Team regularly monitor teaching, planning and children's work. Subject leaders monitor the way their subject is taught throughout the school as detailed above. The curriculum is also monitored by the Governing Body through the work of the Curriculum and Achievement Committee.