

St. John's Primary School Learning and Teaching Policy

Rationale

At St John's Primary School, we are committed to providing enriching learning experiences that help all learners reach their full potential and embrace their unique talents. We aim to create a consistent approach to learning, teaching, and assessment across the school, within a supportive and inclusive environment that places learners at the heart of our mission. Guided by our school vision, "***Creating a caring community of faith, enabling learners to reach their full potential***," we foster a nurturing, joyful community where rights are respected, and collaboration is encouraged. Through high-quality teaching and effective assessment, we challenge and support every learner to achieve their best.

We recognise that children learn in different ways, each developing their skills and understanding in a unique style. By valuing these diverse learning strategies, we help learners grow into well-rounded individuals and support our teachers in addressing the wide variety of learning processes that exist within our school.

Effective learning is closely linked to self-esteem and positive relationships, and we believe motivation, high expectations, and teamwork are key to fostering success. When learners achieve, it boosts their confidence and self-worth. Our commitment to creating a positive atmosphere, promoting good behaviour, and maintaining high expectations is aligned with our Relationships Policy. We believe learning is a lifelong journey, and we are here to support our learners at every step of the way.

Aims

- To ensure that all children and staff feel happy, safe, respected, and included.
- To provide high-quality teaching through enthusiastic, motivated, and reflective staff, equipping learners with essential skills and knowledge for future

learning.

- To set high expectations that inspire learners to aspire and achieve.
- To support the inclusion of children facing barriers to learning.
- To offer a broad and balanced curriculum that provides equitable access to knowledge and experiences through varied, differentiated instruction.
- To provide enrichment opportunities that help children connect and apply their learning in diverse ways.
- To cultivate curiosity by encouraging children to question, discuss, and make informed decisions.
- To monitor, track, and support all learners to reach high standards.
- To maintain the highest standards of pastoral care and child protection.
- To nurture personal qualities such as self-confidence, independence, and self-discipline through praise and positive reinforcement, in line with the UNCRC.
- To build strong partnerships with parents/carers, families, and the wider community and parish church.
- To foster a loving, faith-filled community rooted in Gospel values, where all are encouraged to grow in faith, show compassion, and live out the teachings of Christ.

Learning

At St John's Primary School, we aim to develop learners' knowledge and understanding across the curriculum while building essential skills for learning, life, and work. Effective learning happens when learners feel safe in an inclusive, nurturing environment that promotes engagement, motivation, and empowerment. Learners are encouraged to take ownership of their education through opportunities for personalisation and choice, with their voices valued in shaping their learning. The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum, offering diverse learning experiences such as Play-Based Learning, Inquiry-Based Learning, Outdoor Learning, and Digital Literacy, which help foster a well-rounded educational journey and the development of a wide range of skills.

Teaching

Effective teaching at St John's Primary School uses a variety of strategies to provide meaningful experiences that enable learners to grow and reach their full potential. Teaching is most effective when positive relationships are fostered, creating mutual respect and trust between educators and learners. The learner is at the heart of the teaching process, with lessons tailored to their individual needs and interests. Careful planning ensures that all Curriculum for Excellence (CFE) Experiences and Outcomes are covered, with learning differentiated to provide appropriate challenges and support. A multi-sensory approach engages learners, while positive partnerships with external agencies offer additional support to ensure that every learner can thrive. By building trusting relationships with parents and carers, we create a supportive learning community where families are actively involved in their children's education and development.

Responsibilities:

Meeting Learner Needs:

Teachers are committed to meeting the needs of all learners, beginning with a clear understanding of each learner's abilities. By gathering academic and personal information at the start of each session, teachers can effectively plan to meet the diverse needs of their learners. Regular reviews of progress ensure that support continues to align with learner needs throughout the session. Learners who are excelling or facing challenges should be identified, and the Additional Support Need plan should be used when necessary.

Teaching and Learning Methodologies:

Each classroom should employ a variety of teaching and learning methods, which may include:

- Explanation and demonstration, individually or in groups.

- Dialogue between teacher and learner, as well as peer-to-peer discussions.
- Inquiry-based learning, where children explore, experiment, and draw conclusions.
- Expression and communication through a range of media, including visual arts, drama, writing, music, and play.
- Practical activities and reinforcement of learning.
- Problem-solving
- Collaborative learning opportunities, such as Paired Reading and group activities.
- Active Learning, incorporating both formal and informal activities.
- Games-based learning and using ICT tools like interactive whiteboards and educational apps.
- Involving parents/carers and helpers in the classroom to support small groups or individual learners.
- Taking learning outdoors with clear objectives.
- Assessment for Learning strategies to monitor progress and inform teaching.
- Enrichment through specialist visitors or field trips to enhance learning.

Planning a Class Programme:

Effective planning includes organising the classroom, resources, and working areas in a way that supports independent and collaborative learning. Teachers should share learning intentions and success criteria with learners, plan extension tasks for early finishers, and set realistic but high standards. It's important to always teach ahead, using learners' work as both an assessment of understanding and an opportunity for teaching growth. Teachers should also encourage learners to keep their learning environment tidy and organised.