

## Teaching and Learning Policy

Cutnall Green First School

October 2016

### Aims and Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to exemplify our expectations in relation to good teaching. We believe that children learn best in different ways. At our school we aim to provide a rich and varied learning experience that allows children to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential.

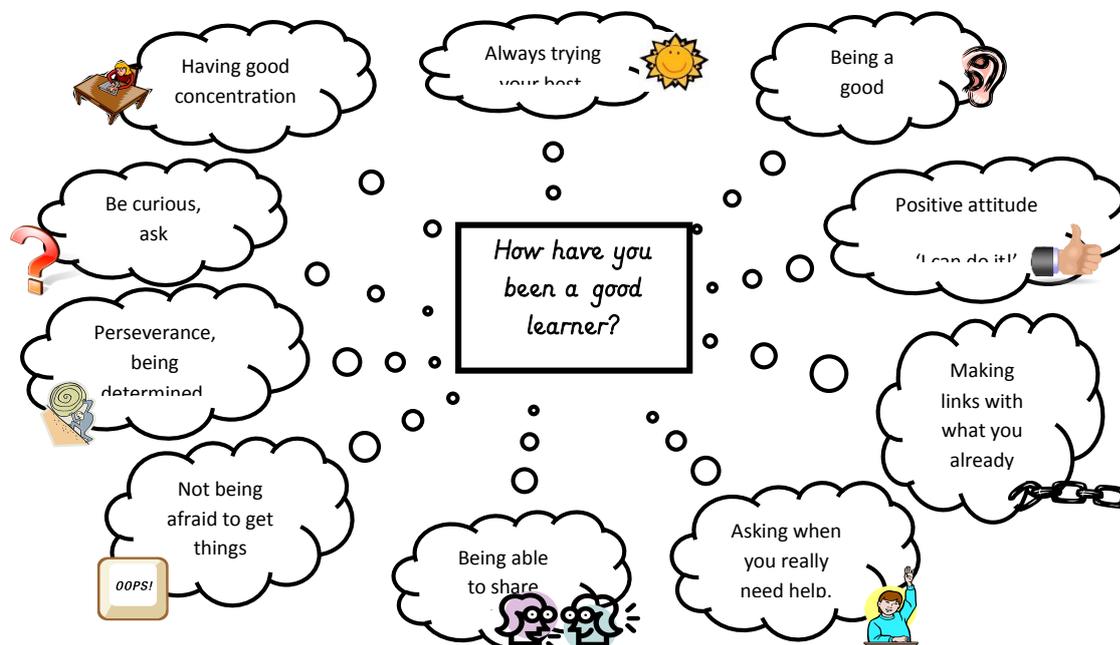
Through our teaching we aim to:

- 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

Through this policy we aim to ensure that children learn effectively. The characteristics of effective learning are when pupils make good progress, respond well to challenging tasks and adjust well to working in different contexts. To be effective learners children need to work in a sustained manner with commitment and enjoyment, be confident in raising questions and have perseverance when answers are not readily available. Also, children need to be able to select appropriate methods, organise the resources they need effectively and then be able to evaluate their own work. When appropriate, they also need to help each other.

We actively encourage children to become good learners by discussing how we learn best.



## Effective Teaching

Effective teaching is when teachers challenge and inspire pupils, expecting the most of them. Effective teachers have good subject knowledge and are technically competent in teaching phonics and other basic skills. The best teachers will use a variety of methods to enable all pupils to learn effectively and will manage pupils well, insisting on high standards of behaviour. They will assess pupils' work thoroughly and use assessments to help and encourage pupils to overcome difficulties. Good teachers plan effectively, setting clear objectives that pupils understand and they use time, support staff and other resources effectively.

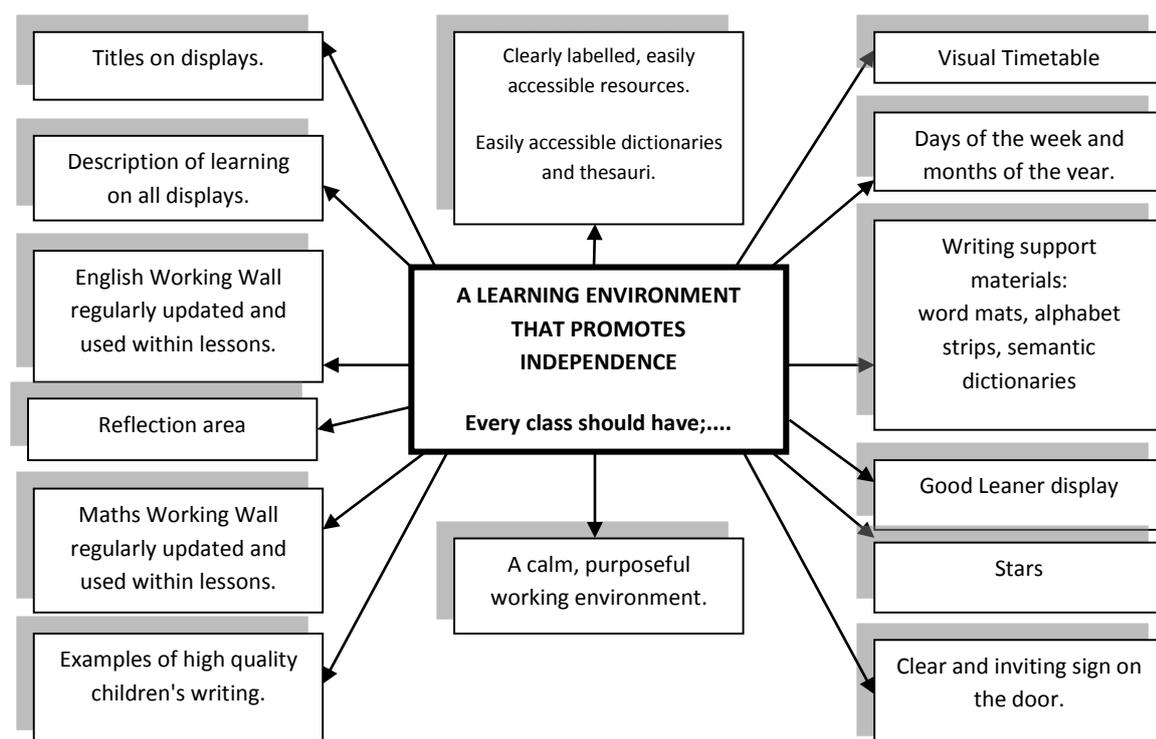
## Effective Lessons

Effective lessons ensure pupil progress is at that heart and have:

- ✓ Clear learning objectives shared with the children.
- ✓ Clear success criteria linked to the learning objective.
- ✓ High quality questioning
- ✓ Teaching and learning activities designed to provide students with opportunities to meet the learning objective.
- ✓ Pupils assessing their own learning.
- ✓ Clear feedback which has an impact on learning. *(for more information see Marking and Feedback Policy)*

## Learning Environment

At Cutnall Green we work hard to ensure our classrooms are attractive learning environments. We change displays regularly, to ensure that the classroom reflects the topics studied by the children. We use working walls to enhance our teaching as well as provide prompts and track the learning journey. We also strive to create attractive displays around school, providing opportunities for reflection and sharing of work. We believe that a stimulating environment sets the climate for learning, and a well organised classroom promotes independent use of resources and high-quality work by the children.



## Curriculum

Our curriculum is at the heart of teaching and learning and has been developed to help prepare children for the opportunities and challenges of life. It is broad and balanced and is based upon the key skills that children need to develop to help them succeed in life. These skills are:-

### **T**eam Workers:

Able to work independently when required but also able to collaborate, value and support other, communicate and listen.

### **R**esilient and Reflective Learners:

To reflect on their learning and adopt new strategies, try different approaches and to be determined to succeed.

### **I**ndependent Enquirers:

To be curious, ask questions, make choices, form opinions, apply knowledge to reason and justify.

### **C**reative Thinkers:

To use their imaginations and apply their learning to new situations. To be creative and choose a way of learning which suits their learning style.

### **S**elf Managers:

To persevere, to become role models for learning, to set achievable goals and celebrate achievement. To know what their next steps in learning are and how to achieve them.

There is also a strengthened focus on securing essential English, Maths and Science skills in line with the New National Curriculum 2014 with continual opportunities to develop, use and apply these skills across the whole curriculum. We recognise that children require a well-rounded school experience in order to achieve and be successful. We also ensure that our curriculum aids planning for progressions throughout the phases and allows us the flexibility to tailor learning to local needs and the need of all children. We promote the curriculum as being dynamic and continually evolving. Our aim is to provide memorable learning experiences and rich opportunities whilst promoting outstanding outcomes through our innovative curriculum design and highly tailored programmes.

## Developing and Monitoring Teaching

A range of strategies are used to monitor teaching and develop every teacher and teaching assistant at Cutnall Green. These include observations, learning walks, informal discussions, book scrutinies, pupil discussions and high quality professional development. Coaching and mentoring are key in our aspiration to provide outstanding teaching and learning for every child. We use the TDA core standards as part of our performance management procedures.

## 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 our school strategies for teaching and learning and to provide information about children's attainment;
- sending information to parents at the start of each term in which we outline the topics that the children will be studying;
- sending annual reports to parents in which we explain the progress made by each child and indicate how the child can improve further;
- explaining to parents how they can support their children with home/school learning.

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
- 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.

## The Role of Governors

The school's governors determine, support, monitor and review the school policies on 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 best used to support successful teaching and learning;
- monitor teaching strategies in the light of health and safety regulations;
- monitor how effective teaching and learning strategies are in terms of raising pupil attainment;
- ensure that staff development and performance management policies promote good quality teaching;
- monitor the effectiveness of the school's teaching and learning policies through the school's self-review processes.

This policy will be reviewed in September 2017.