



## WEST TYNE FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

### Curriculum Policy

Our Vision..... Inspire, Support, Believe, Achieve

Our Mission.....

Our values-based schools nurture curiosity and creativity through an inspiring, broad and engaging curriculum, where learning is at the heart of all that we do. Our children learn to become resilient and self-assured in an environment where safety is paramount. Everyone is challenged and encouraged to thrive and achieve as individuals, preparing them for their role as caring and active citizens in modern Britain.

The Federation is committed to the personal development of all involved and aim to provide life- long learning.

We aim to provide extended facilities in both our schools in order to support each child on their learning journey.

Our school is:

- a safe, **supportive** stimulating learning environment;
- a **team** of respectful, tolerant, open minded citizens;
- a community where everyone **aspires** to be the very best they can be;
- a community of **resilient** lifelong learners;
- a centre of excellence where all achieve **success**.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Federation we believes 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 experience for everyone; it should be enjoyable. 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.

This policy highlights classroom practices and procedures that promote high quality teaching and learning.

Life is not lived in separate blocks of time with certain skills and knowledge being used at only those times; because of this we encourage and promote a cross curricular approach in school.

An understanding of basic skills and knowledge in all areas and that subjects intertwine is therefore required by everyone, in order for them to understand the world around them and achieve their own potential. The Federation aims to provide the foundations that these skills can be built upon.

## **ENTITLEMENT**

### **Knowledge:**

Within the Federation each year group plans together, during PPA time and in an assembly time, to fully include all relevant topics together –giving the children a theme rather than a subject label. All areas of the curriculum have the ability to merge together and form a theme.

Children are taught relevant skills and knowledge from other subjects - in a cross-curricular way.

English and maths skills are encouraged to be used at all times.

### **Effective Learning**

We acknowledge that people learn in many different ways and we recognise the need to develop strategies that allow all children to learn in ways that best suit them. We take into account the different forms of emotional intelligence when planning teaching and learning styles in order that Pupils learn to:

- Effectively acquire new knowledge or skills in their work, develop ideas and increase their understanding.
- Show maximum engagement, concentration, application and productivity.
- Develop skills and capacity to work independently and collaboratively.

We offer opportunities for children to learn in different ways that may involve the use of varied seating arrangements. The learning styles used include:

- Independent work;
- Paired work;
- Group work;
- Whole-class work;
- Investigation and problem solving;
- Independent and group research;
- Asking and answering questions;
- Debates, role-plays and oral presentations;
- Watching and responding to live drama and musical presentations.
- Creative activities;
- Designing and making things;
- Use of the I.C.T;
- Use of games;
- Outdoor work and visits to places of educational interest;
- Use of audio visual resources
- Participation in athletic or physical activity.

### **Equal Opportunities:**

All pupils have access to the curriculum regardless of their individual ability, gender, race, cultural or social background or any physical or sensory difficulty. Our aim is to encourage all children's progress in the foundation subjects through the provision of a balanced curriculum – striving to meet basic skills levels for all in Literacy and Numeracy. The Federation has universal ambitions for every child, whatever their background or circumstances. Children learn and thrive when they are healthy, safe and engaged. In order to engage all children, cultural diversity, home languages, gender and religious beliefs are all celebrated. Our curriculum includes a wide range of texts and other resources which represent the diversity and backgrounds of all our children. We believe in 'valuing what the child brings to school and recognise the importance of supporting a child's first language, not only to foster self-esteem, but to assist in the learning of English if this is required by any child.

Boys and girls have equal access to the curriculum.

Provision is made to develop the talents of more able pupils in a variety of ways.

Through increasingly complex investigative tasks and open ended tasks, which enable them to tackle more complex issues and understand more difficult concepts.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs are supported to help them succeed in all areas of the curriculum. Staff support less able children, and liaise with the Special Needs Co-ordinator when they are concerned about a child's progress. Pupils with learning difficulties will be given tasks which will be broken down into smaller steps, thus giving them achievable goals. In cases of sensory or physical difficulties the school will endeavour to provide special appropriate apparatus.

Pupils have access to the necessary resources to undertake a variety of activities and facilitate the teaching of the whole curriculum.

## **POLICY INTO PRACTICE**

### **Scheme of Work:**

All guidelines are met for time allocation for all foundation subject teaching throughout the year.

Science is taught each week and not in a block format. Staff are encouraged to hold curriculum days that celebrate and enlighten the children in a creative way. Enrichment weeks, visiting experts and trips are used to bring the curriculum to life.

Our teaching resources are drawn from the 2014 National Curriculum Standards.

A year group curriculum overview indicates which themes are being covered and how they inter-link with different subjects. For more information regarding Curriculum overviews, please, see each individual schools website.

### **Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Issues:**

Through the attitudes we promote in our teaching of all subjects, we aim to develop pupil's social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding. We are aware of any ethnic diversity within our schools and will take account of this in our planning and teaching.

### **Education for Citizenship:**

Within our school the whole curriculum contributes to the education of pupils for citizenship by encouraging their development of key attitudes and skills. These enable our pupils to explore and make informed decisions. Through the use of a balanced range of teaching methods pupils are actively involved in lessons. Group work supports the development of personal and social skills by encouraging the children's co-operation, patience and open-mindedness towards the ideas of others.

### **Environmental Education:**

The children within the Federation are encouraged to develop an awareness of the environment through direct experience as well as secondary sources. We aim to stimulate their knowledge of how and why we need to maintain, protect and improve the quality of the environment. Pupils are encouraged to participate in a range of tasks and activities inside and outside the classroom and to make use of the wide variety of possibilities our school sites offer.

### **Our Classrooms are attractive learning environments:**

We believe that a stimulating environment sets the climate for learning.

An exciting classroom promotes independent use of resources and high-quality work by the children.

- We change displays at least once a term (or half term as appropriate), to ensure that the classrooms reflect the topics studied by the children.
- We ensure that all children have the opportunity to display their best work at some time during the year.
- We use interactive Numeracy and Literacy displays.
- Additional displays include: Marking and Feedback Poster, Class Rules and Fire procedures.
- Classrooms have a range of dictionaries and fiction and non-fiction books, which are attractively labelled, as are all equipment stored in the classroom.
- Resources and equipment stored in the classroom are readily available and attractively labelled to promote independent learning.

## **TEACHING METHODS**

### **Classroom Organisation:**

The curriculum can be delivered in a variety of ways. Classrooms therefore should be organised in a way that allows the children to access necessary resources and equipment depending on the type of activity being undertaken. As children progress through each school they are encouraged to take increasing responsibility for the choice and organisation of resources, thus reflecting their greater independence and maturity. Within our schools we aim to provide a rich and varied learning environment that allows children to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential by catering for those different learning styles.

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 and their possessions.
- 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.

### **Grouping of Children:**

Lessons are taught in a range of formats:

- Whole mixed ability classes
- Whole single year group classes
- Whole mixed year group classes
- Mixed ability class groups
- Ability groups
- Smaller Intervention groups

### **Nature of Experience:**

Our pupils are provided with a range of learning experiences, dictated by the nature and content of the activity being undertaken, (e.g questioning, speculating, describing, explaining, predicting, direct teaching, handling artefacts, research, observing, visits etc).

When teaching we focus on motivating the children by:

- Providing a varied and exciting curriculum in line with the statutory requirements and principles of equal opportunity.
- Ensuring there is a balance of appropriate teaching styles used and suitable teaching strategies.
- Using interesting and good quality resources and visual aides to aide effective learning.
- Building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum.
- Using the Cornerstones curriculum plan to guide our teaching with clear learning objectives.
- Ensuring the learning environment is stimulating to interest, encourage and engage pupils.
- Make effective use of time and insist on high standards of behaviour.
- Use Home-Learning effectively to reinforce and extend what is learned in school.

**Teaching Styles:**

The makeup of each lesson follows the guidelines and content set out in the 2014 National Curriculum. Typically lessons include 'Fix – it' time, thinking/introduction time, a main teaching activity and a plenary. We aim to make our lessons fun and exciting, using as many different teaching styles as possible, including visual, audio and kinaesthetic methods as well as closed/open questions, discussion, debate, illustrations, labelling, ordering, identification, written work, recording observations, designing, individual/group investigations, audio/visual equipment, role play and drama.

The learning objectives and success criteria are introduced to the whole class through the use of stimulating varied starting points.

Assessment for Learning is used in all classrooms as an assessment tool for teachers and for the children to take control of their learning.

**Use of I.C.T:**

I.C.T. is incorporated in the curriculum in a variety of ways:

- All classrooms are equipped with an IWB to stimulate children's learning
- Software is available in every classroom for use on the PC in each room.
- Software is available on laptops and IPADs
- A bank of laptops/IPADs with foundation curriculum software can be used in lessons.

**Links with other subjects:**

All subjects are linked –when appropriate. An over- arching theme for a term allows for cross curricular links and the content is informed by questions from the pupils. An enquiry based approach is encouraged that covers a range of skills and relevant knowledge.

**Resources:**

Teaching resources are kept in cupboards throughout the school. These are to be used when required and returned afterwards. They are audited every year and consumable resources are replaced when needed.

**Safety:**

At all times the safety of the children in the class is paramount. We aim to teach and learn in as safe an environment as possible. Health and Safety guidelines are followed at all times and where necessary the relevant risk assessments completed.

Pupils work in a healthy and safe environment.

- We ensure that all tasks that the children undertake are safe and identify risks in the plans.
- Educational visits are seen as an important way of enhancing the curriculum, but prior to any visit we consult the Executive Head teacher and complete a risk assessment form.
- Risk assessments are shared with both participating staff and pupils.
- Parental permission for educational visits is always sought.

## **ASSESSMENT**

### **5.1. Purpose:**

Assessment and record keeping is the means by which our pupil's attainment and achievements are monitored and an appropriate progression through the curriculum is ensured. By monitoring and recording pupil's progress, teachers are able to build up a profile of individual strengths and areas for development. This is then used to inform their planning and teaching. Assessment also allows staff to identify those children whose achievements fall outside the boundaries of differentiated activities.

Assessment information is completed termly by staff to show attainment against the 2014 National Curriculum descriptors for:

- Computing
- Art and Design
- Design and Technology
- Geography
- History
- Languages
- Music
- Physical Education
- RE

### **Methods:**

Assessment is used to inform future planning and teaching and takes place in many ways:

- Day to day assessment is carried out through constructive marking, AfL, observations in class and verbal discussions with children.
- A more formal assessment is carried out every term in Numeracy, Literacy and Science.
- The results of this assessment (along with teacher assessment) are used to determine if children are in the correct ability groups and if they are working at age related expectations.



### **Reporting Procedure:**

Parents are invited to attend meetings where they can discuss their child's progress with the class teacher. The child's teacher also provides a verbal report during parent consultations, which forms part of the annual report to parents.

### **CURRICULUM MONITORING, REVIEW, EVALUATION AND REVISION**

Subject Co-ordinators are responsible for monitoring the curriculum. Monitoring is done in several ways, including:

- Regularly looking at the class work in books and classrooms
- Monitoring planning
- Through analysing assessment data
- Monitoring targets
- Lesson observations
- Work scrutiny
- Displays
- Curriculum walkabouts
- Pupil discussions
- Staff meetings
- CPD

The subject co-ordinators are responsible for keeping abreast of current developments in the teaching of the whole curriculum, with the assistance of the Executive Headteacher, and feeding these developments back to staff, governors (on a yearly basis) and all stake holders.

Signed: 

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