

Meon Infant School
Teaching and Learning Policy 2016-2017

Rationale

We believe that:

1. Learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone i.e. learning should be fun and enable children to make expected or accelerated progress.
2. Teaching needs to equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary in order that they can play an increasingly useful and positive role in society and make informed choices about their lives both now and in the future.
3. High quality teaching and learning experiences support children to be able to lead happy and rewarding lives, now and in the future.

Aims

Meon Infant School aims to provide children with the opportunities needed to develop towards their full potential; academically, emotionally and socially:

- Providing the highest standard of education to enable children to acquire the skills, knowledge and concepts relevant to their future.
- Promoting an ethos of care, mutual respect and support, where effort is valued and success celebrated.
- Enabling children to become active, responsible and caring members of the school and wider community.

The school works towards these aims by:

- Promoting high quality learning and attainment.
- Providing a high quality learning environment.
- Valuing each other and ourselves.
- Working in partnership with parents and the community.

At Meon Infant School we believe that children learn best when;

- They are encouraged to form positive relationships with their teacher, peers and other members of the school community;
- They have clear direction and are praised for all the good things that they do;
- They are actively involved in their learning at an appropriate level to match their learning needs;
- They are encouraged to become increasingly independent learners;
- They are appropriately challenged with learning experiences which are relevant to their lives and interests and are inspiring, motivating and engaging;
- They are working in an environment which is safe, caring, supportive and stimulating;
- Their learning is well structured and delivered;
- Their learning is effectively differentiated;
- Their learning addresses appropriate and pertinent aspects of the children's future development both within overarching and explicit provision;
- Their learning encompasses the values and skills of the school in aiding the development as future effective citizens;
- Their learning enables appropriate and pertinent aspects of personal, social, moral, spiritual, cultural and emotional development within both overarching and explicit provision.

Quality First Teaching

At Meon Infant School we believe that good teaching is when teachers (and other School staff)

- Form positive relationships with the children in their class and other members of the school community;
- Plan lessons effectively which take children's prior learning and current assessment into account and are appropriately differentiated in order that the lessons consolidate, build upon and extend learning for all children;
- Insist on high expectations of learning and social behaviours;
- Ensure that effective direction and support is given in order that the children make good progress;
- Demonstrate secure subject and pedagogical knowledge in order to inspire children and build their understanding;
- Apply a range of teaching styles which appropriately match the children's learning styles in order to sustain their concentration, motivation and application;
- Develop and sustain good links and focussed communication with parents/carers in order to support the children's learning;
- Develop and maintain safe, secure and inspiring classroom and learning environments
- Demonstrate effective lesson organisation;
- Effectively assess and monitor children's progress in order that they can extend children's learning both within individual lessons and over time;
- Use resources effectively, including other adults, to support children's learning;
- Use technology effectively in order to support children's learning;
- Develop the range of reading skills required to access all the curriculum effectively;
- Use questioning effectively to gauge and extend children's skills, knowledge and understanding;

Guiding Principles of quality first Teaching

- Working with smaller amounts of children leads to improved progress
- Children working independently are given quality skills based learning challenges that are well resourced
- Key vocabulary is taught and used
- Regular response marking (verbal and written) leads more rapid progress.
- Learning is retained when delivered through meaningful contexts.
- Reducing teacher talk increases pupil involvement.
- All learning groups are fluid to promote inclusion

What is a good lesson?

At Meon Infant School we believe that a good lesson should comprise of the following elements;

- Planning – teachers have a clear understanding of subject knowledge and setting objectives and it is well planned and differentiated.
- high expectation – there is optimism about, and high expectation of success
- Introduction to the lesson- and engaging hook and clear purpose
- The intended learning and success criteria is clearly shared.
- Main teaching- modelled and high quality examples provided.
- Group teaching and independent activities
- Interactive – pupil's contributions are encouraged, expected, extended
- characterised by high quality oral work
- well-paced – there is a sense of urgency, driven by the need to make progress and succeed
- End of the lesson; plenaries and/or mini plenaries within the lesson
- Use of assessment and evaluation – before, during and after the lesson.

At Meon Infant School we recognise the importance of key skills. Opportunities will be made available across the curriculum to develop:

- application of number;
- communication;
- computing skills
- problem solving;
- working with others;
- improving own learning and performance.

Thinking skills will also be developed across the curriculum. This will include:

- creative thinking;
- enquiry;
- information processing;
- reasoning;
- evaluation.

Curriculum Planning

1) Meon Infant School's planning is based on the following requirements:

- The new Primary National Curriculum 2015
- The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework
- The Living Differences Syllabus for Religious Education
- The needs (skills and knowledge) and interests of the children we are teaching.

2) Long Term Planning

- Our Whole School Topic Overview plots the content covered from Foundation to year two for each individual year group and each curriculum area based on the skills and knowledge outlined in the 2015 National Curriculum.
- It enables us to ensure balance and progression across the school and to identify cross curricular links and opportunities for educational visits.

3) Medium Term Planning.

- This is based on a topic approach using the Programmes of Study given in the National Curriculum
- In the Foundation Stage, our medium term plans are based on guidance within the Foundation Stage Profile.
- A narrative of the skills and knowledge taught and learned as a scientist, artist, historian, etc is produced and sent to parents after the topic is launched to inform them of what the learning looks like that term and how they can support at home.

4) Short Term Planning

- Detailed weekly plans for Literacy and Numeracy are provided by each class teacher. These should show progression throughout the week, Learning Intentions, Success Criteria and differentiation, along with an outline of the lesson.
- An overview of other areas to be taught in other subjects are on a weekly timetable

Classroom Environment

We aim to provide as immersive a learning experience as possible to engage pupils further in their learning. Pupils are involved in creating this. Displays will have explicit links to the curriculum. Where possible, they will include interactive displays. They should inspire learning and celebrate the achievement of all pupils. The classroom environments should be both language rich and numerate rich and organised in a way that promotes and encourages independent and further learning opportunities. Working walls in core subject areas will be updated regularly and provide good quality support prompts/ methods and guides that the children can access easily. Classroom charters/ Rules will display clear rights and how to respect these.

The Role of Teaching Assistants

We have a number of support staff who play a central and specialised role in our learning processes. Key elements of their role are:

- To support the teaching; either through direct delivery or by enabling access for
- identified children
- Supporting a small group within the classroom
- Delivering intervention groups under the guidance of the teacher
- Carrying out assessments
- Preparing resources
- Supporting children with EHCPs or statements

Behaviour Management (Please refer to the school's behaviour policy)

We believe that excellent standards of behaviour are central to effective learning. Our Behaviour Policy outlines our procedures relating to behaviour both within the class room and in the wider School environment. Outstanding learning behaviours are encouraged, praised and rewarded with stickers, certificates and entry into the Golden Good Book.

Assessment (please refer to the School's Assessment Policy)

Marking and feedback is done throughout the lesson to effectively support the child and ensure accelerated progress is made. Assessments are used to inform future planning through same day interventions and daily planning.

Inclusion

Inclusion is about every child having educational needs that are special and the School meeting these diverse needs in order to ensure the active participation and progress of all children in their learning.

- Successful inclusive provision at Meon Infant School is seen as the responsibility of the whole school community, permeating all aspects of school life and applicable to all our children.
- In accordance with the school's Equal Opportunities Policy, all children will be given full access to the National Curriculum, unless their statement of SEND indicates disapplication. Staff will actively support all children to reach their potential regardless of academic ability, race, gender or age.
- Children who receive additional or extra support, including those with statements of SEND or an EHCP, have learning plans specifically tailored to their needs. These are followed as far as possible as part of the normal classroom teaching but sometimes require specific input involving withdrawal from the main classroom environment for short periods of time.
- Inclusive practice across the curriculum should enable all children to achieve their best possible standard; whatever their ability, and irrespective of gender, ethnic, social or cultural background, home language or any other aspect that could affect their participation in, or progress in their learning.

Roles and Responsibilities

Learning and teaching is a shared responsibility and all members of the school community have an important part to play. (See Home-School Agreement)

Teachers will endeavour to:

- provide a challenging and stimulating curriculum designed to encourage all children to reach
- the highest standard of achievement;
- recognise and be aware of the needs of each individual child according to ability and aptitude;
- ensure that learning is progressive and continuous;
- be good role models, punctual, well prepared and organised;
- keep up-to-date with educational issues;
- provide clear information on school procedures and pupil progress;
- have a positive attitude to change and the development of their own expertise;
- establish links with the local community to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life;

Parents are encouraged to support their child's learning by:

- ensuring that their child attends school regularly, punctually, well-rested and in good health;
- ensuring that their child arrives at school wearing the correct uniform and bringing necessary equipment;
- providing support for the discipline within the school and for the teacher's role;
- supporting the work of educational targets and becoming actively involved in the implementation of any support programme;
- participating in discussions concerning their child's progress and attainment;
- ensuring early contact with school to discuss matters which affect a child's happiness, progress and behaviour;
- support the school's homework policy and give due importance to any homework;
- ensuring that all contact addresses and telephone numbers are up to date and correct;
- allowing their child to become increasingly independent as they progress throughout the school;
- informing the school of reasons for their child's absence;
- actively supporting the Home-School Agreement.

Pupils are encouraged to support the school's aims by:

- attending school in good health, maintained by adequate diet, exercise and sleep;
- attending school regularly and punctually;
- being organised, bringing necessary equipment, taking letters home promptly, etc;
- conducting themselves in an orderly manner in line with the expected behaviour policy;
- taking increased responsibility for their own learning.

The governors will support, monitor and review the school's approach to teaching and learning by:

- supporting the use of appropriate teaching strategies by allocating resources effectively
- ensuring that the school buildings and premises are used optimally to support teaching and learning
- check teaching methods in the light of health and safety regulations
- seeking to ensure that our staff development and our performance management both promote good quality teaching
- monitoring the effectiveness of the school's teaching and learning approaches through the school's self review processes, which include reports from the Headteacher, senior leaders, and a review of the continuing professional development of staff.

The community is invited to support the school by:

- contributing to activities, such as assemblies, specialist outings, clubs, etc;
- presenting themselves as positive role models to be emulated;
- organising activities and events throughout the year to extend and deepen pupils' knowledge and skills;
- supporting school events;

Homework

Homework is considered to be a valuable element of the learning process.

We believe that homework should be set:

- to involve parents in their children's learning;
- to help parents keep abreast of what their child can and cannot do;
- to take advantage of the home context to apply learning;
- to encourage children to talk about their work to their parents and explain what they are doing and how;
- to extend the time for learning, thus enabling children to practise and consolidate their skills and knowledge and strategies;
- to view learning as a life long process and not just restricted to school hours.

The school's agreed practice for homework is that:

- homework is set on a regular basis, for all year groups
- homework will generally follow on from work which has taken place in class but may take many different forms, including reading, learning multiplication facts and spellings. It should not entail new ideas that require explanation from a teacher;
- homework may sometimes consist of preparation for work yet to be done;
- homework may sometimes involve the participation of the parents;
- children who have made insufficient effort during class time may occasionally be asked to complete work at home.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Pupils' work will be monitored and moderated regularly in each of the core curriculum areas by the subject leaders, the Assistant headteacher and the Deputy or Headteacher. A termly review of monitoring procedures is held with all members of the teaching staff in the form of Pupil Progress Meetings which includes discussions around our whole school Provision Map and the impact of the interventions that are used. Subject leaders will regularly monitor children's books.

Policy approved by Governors

Signed Head Teacher.....Date.....

Signed Chair of GovernorsDate.....