

# Weaverthorpe C of E (VC) Primary School

## Teaching and Learning Policy

At Weaverthorpe C of E (VC) Primary School 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 School aims:**

- ♥ To be a welcoming rural school with a friendly Christian ethos, where learning is exciting, challenging and engaging; and where children reach their full potential.
- ♥ To discover and nurture children's potential and well-being within a happy, safe and stimulating environment.
- ♥ To encourage care, respect and celebration for themselves, **all** others and the environment in which they live and learn.
- ♥ To deliver high standards of teaching where we can develop questioning minds and skills for life-long learning.

### **Our Christian values:**

#### **We will be:**

- ✓ Respectful – to show empathy towards each other and to respect all and their belongings.
- ✓ Good learners – we will demonstrate good learning behaviour and meet challenges in a positive way.
- ✓ Trustworthy – we will tell the truth and show that we can be relied upon.
- ✓ Kind, forgiving and patient – with ourselves and each other.
- ✓ Fit and healthy – we will know how to live healthy, active lives.

#### **We will:**

- ✓ Enjoy learning – we all want school to be good fun!
- ✓ Care for the environment - at school and in the wider world
- ✓ Have good manners
- ✓ Be confident and believe in ourselves.
- ✓ Become independent – as we learn.

### **Aims and objectives**

We believe that people learn best in different ways. At our school 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;
- to provide children with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their own health and welfare to promote healthy lifestyles;
- to be inclusive giving equal opportunities for all;
- to equip children with the knowledge and skills necessary for their future.

### **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. The psychologist Howard Gardner identifies seven main areas of intelligence: linguistic, logical/mathematical, visual/spatial, kinaesthetic, musical, interpersonal/group working, and interpersonal/reflective. We take into account these different forms of intelligence when planning teaching and learning styles.

We offer opportunities for children to learn in different ways. These include:

- investigation and problem solving;
- research and finding out;
- group work;
- pair work;
- independent work;
- whole-class work;
- asking and answering questions;
- use of the computer;
- fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest;
- creative activities;
- watching television/DVD and responding to musical/recorded material;
- debates, role-plays and oral presentations;
- designing and making things;
- participation in 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. We are developing our assessment methods to reflect this thinking.

### **Effective teaching**

When teaching we focus on motivating the children and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. We use the National Curriculum 2014 and the school curriculum plan to guide our teaching. This sets out the aims, objectives and values of the school and details what is to be taught to each year group.

We base our teaching on our knowledge of the children's level of attainment. Our prime focus is to develop further the knowledge and skills of the children. We 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 we give due regard to information and targets contained in the children's Individual Provision Maps (IPM). We have high expectations of all children, and we believe that their work here at Weaverthorpe C of E (VC) Primary School is of the highest possible standard. We set whole school curricular targets as part of our development priorities based on areas to improve identified during analysis of end of year assessments including optional SATs as well as our formative and summative assessments throughout the year.

We set academic targets for the children and we share these targets with children and their parents. During each term the children are assessed in reading, writing and maths and their progress is tracked. This data is used to monitor the progress and attainment of all children and set in place any intervention programs deemed necessary.

We plan our lessons with clear learning objectives. Our lesson plans contain information about the learning objectives, the success criteria, tasks to be set, the resources needed, and the way we assess the children's work. We are developing our assessment methods to include how children learn and their preferred strategies for learning. We evaluate all lessons so that we can modify and improve our teaching in the future. We assess children's progress in each lesson using a variety of AfL strategies.

All our staff makes a special effort to establish good working relationships with all children in the class. We treat the children with kindness and respect. We treat them fairly and give them equal opportunity to take part in class activities. All our teachers follow the school policy with regard to discipline and classroom management (behaviour policy). We praise children for their efforts and, by so doing, we help to build positive attitudes towards school and learning in general. We insist on good order and behaviour at all times. When children misbehave we follow the guidelines for sanctions as outlined in our school behaviour policy.

We ensure that all tasks and activities that the children do are safe. When we plan to take children out of school, we first inform parents and obtain their permission.

We deploy learning assistants and other adult helpers as effectively as possible. Sometimes they work with individual children and sometimes they work with small groups. All adults in school assist with the preparation and storage of classroom equipment.

Our classrooms are attractive learning environments. All classrooms have a range of dictionaries and fiction and non-fiction books, as well as displays relating to literacy and numeracy. We believe that a stimulating environment sets the climate for learning, and an exciting classroom promotes independent use of resources and high-quality work by the children.

All our teachers reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and plan their professional development needs accordingly. We do all we can to support our teachers in developing their skills, so that they can continually improve their practice.

We conduct all our teaching in an atmosphere of trust and respect for all.

### **The role of governors**

Our 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 self-review processes. These include reports from subject leaders and the head teacher's report to governors.

### **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:

- sending information to parents at the start of each term in which we outline the topics that the children will be studying during that term at school;
- regularly reporting 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 homework. We suggest, for example, regular shared reading with very young children, and support for older children with their projects and investigative work.

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.

### **Monitoring and review**

We are aware of the need to review the school teaching and learning policy regularly so that we can take account of new initiatives, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school. We will review our policy during the **Autumn Term every 3 years.**

**Signed:**

**Date:**