

St Aidan's CE Primary School



Primary Teaching and Learning Policy

Policy will be reviewed in January 2024

Last updated January 2023

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Statement of intent

At St Aidan's every child has the right to the best possible education. We aim to ensure that all pupils, regardless of ability, SEND or circumstances, reach their full potential and gain the skills and knowledge necessary to lead successful lives.

This policy provides procedures aimed towards ensuring high quality teaching and learning throughout the school.

It aims to:

- Embed an agreed range of good practice across the school.
- Ensure consistency throughout the school.
- Inform staff of the school's expectations.
- Provide a unified focus for monitoring learning and classroom practice.
- Ensure that the needs of pupils are met.
- Improve and enhance the quality of teaching.
- Ensure that pupils are receiving a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, meeting the requirements of the national curriculum.
- Ensure that teaching is appropriately differentiated for all pupils.
- Establish targets for improvement.
- Enhance the professional development of staff.

Roles and responsibilities

The **governing board** is responsible for:

- Ensuring reports are provided by the **headteacher** and **curriculum coordinators** and that action is taken where areas are identified as requiring improvement.
- Visiting the school to increase knowledge of classroom activity and conducting the following activities:
 - Observing lessons
 - Viewing recordings of lessons as appropriate
 - Viewing samples of pupils' work
 - Viewing records of achievement
 - Talking to pupils about their experiences
 - Talking to teachers about their experiences
 - Reporting their findings to the entire governing board

The **SLT** is responsible for:

- Taking a general overview of the atmosphere in the school on a day-to-day basis by visiting classes and talking to staff and pupils.
- Liaising with parents to ensure needs are being met.
- Working in classrooms, including teaching, regularly.
- Carrying out focussed classroom-based observations.
- Reviewing and commenting on planning and assessment.
- Discussing all annual reports with staff.
- Completing a self-evaluation of the school's quality of teaching.
- Reporting on the quality of teaching and learning in the governors' report.
- Acting as role models for teaching staff.

Curriculum coordinators and **subject leaders** are responsible for:

- Developing and reviewing curriculum policies and schemes of work in collaboration with colleagues.
- Taking accountability for the progress of pupils in their given subject.
- Reporting on the effectiveness of the curriculum to the **SLT** and the **governing board**.
- Providing professional advice to the nominated governor for their subject.

Teaching staff are responsible for:

- Monitoring and evaluating their teaching.
- Seeking professional dialogue and constructive criticism from their head of department.
- Reviewing and evaluating their planning regularly.
- Setting appropriate and challenging targets for pupils based on ability.
- Collaborating with colleagues to moderate pupil achievement.
- Involving parents and other professionals in the monitoring process.
- Completing an annual review assessing the progress of their pupils.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Being on time for school.
- Being prepared to learn.
- Placing coats and bags in the appropriate area.
- Being attentive.
- Listening to and following all reasonable instructions.
- Treating everyone with respect.

External monitoring

Our **school advisor** will work on an **annual** cycle to monitor teaching performance.

The **school advisor** will scrutinise all available data and discuss the school's self-evaluation, along with all matters arising from it, with the **headteacher**

The **school advisor** will often undertake lesson observations alongside the headteacher.

The support of leaders from local schools will be sought to evaluate the work of the school through professional discussion and joint lesson observations.

Ofsted inspections will be used to identify strengths and weaknesses, and to develop an action plan for improvement.

Our philosophy

Through our teaching philosophy, pupils are encouraged to:

- Listen to each other.
- Adopt various roles in groups.
- Volunteer thoughts and opinions.
- Respect the thoughts, ideas and contributions of others.
- Give honest and positive feedback.

To encourage all pupils to contribute to lessons, teachers:

- Ensure pupils raise their hands before speaking to allow all pupils the chance to contribute without being interrupted.
- Allow sufficient thinking time between questions to allow pupils to consider their responses.
- Plan time in their lessons for pupils to discuss their learning with a partner or group before committing to a response.

We reward and recognise achievement in the following ways:

- Praise more than criticise, using formal and informal approaches.
- The school formally rewards pupil in the following ways:
 - Commendation stickers
 - Inviting the pupil to see the headteacher
 - Achievement assemblies
 - Team points

The school informally rewards pupils in the following ways:

- Congratulating pupils privately or in class
- Saying 'well done' to the whole class
- Writing positive feedback on written work
- Writing positive comments in a pupil's planner

The teacher will manage disruptive behaviour by:

- Using non-verbal cues such as raising eyebrows or frowning.
- Referring to the pupil by name.
- Quietly speaking to the pupil while the rest of the class is engaged.
- Giving the pupil a task to encourage responsibility.
- Reminding the pupil of the sanctions that follow a poor choice.
- In exceptional circumstances, calling for support from another member of staff.
- Ensuring the school's Behavioural Policy is adhered to at all times.

To ensure that the quality of teaching is of the highest standard, we commit to ensuring that our teachers:

- Understand what excellent teaching is.
- Creatively plan and deliver lessons.
- Motivate pupils effectively.
- Enjoy and have a passion for teaching.
- Continue to learn and enhance their skills.
- Hold high expectations for all pupils.
- Understand how thinking and questioning develop learning.
- Are consummate professionals.

- Engage pupils of all abilities.
- Seek out and accept constructive feedback from peers, pupils and parents.
- Are given opportunities to lead.
- Involve parents and carers in their teaching.
- Understand and implement effective behaviour management strategies.

Self-evaluation

Discussion with senior leaders

Senior leaders should discuss the following questions to assess the quality of teaching at the school:

- What is the school's view on teaching?
- What is being done to monitor teaching?
- How is assessment used to inform planning, ensure appropriate challenge, set targets and provide feedback?
- To what extent do teachers use assessment within the lesson (for example mini-whiteboards and questioning) to ensure that all pupils understand the lesson objectives?
- Are judgements based on the interpretation and evaluation of data and evidence?
- Are strengths and weaknesses in teaching and management identified?
- What strategies do TAs employ to support learning?
- Do pupils work independently, co-operate to solve problems, develop workplace skills and understand what they need to do to improve?
- What happens if pupils are absent or fall behind with their work? What support is in place to help them?

Discussion with pupils

The following questions should be discussed with pupils to assess the quality of teaching at the school:

- Do you know your targets? What are they?
- What subjects do you have targets for?
- How do you know your targets? How often do you work on them?
- How do you know when you have achieved your targets?
- Who helps you to achieve your targets? What sort of things do they do?
- Do your parents know your targets? How do they know?
- When do you get new targets?
- What happens if you can't achieve your targets?
- How does having targets help your learning?
- Tell me about this piece of work. What were you learning?
- Show me a piece of work that you are really proud of. Why?
- Do you know how to improve your work? Do you have the opportunity to improve your work?
- What do you think about your maths/English homework? What do you think the school could do to make maths more enjoyable/interesting for you?
- Which aspect of maths/English do you find challenging/difficult?

Learning environment

Setting the tone

- The teacher will set the tone for the morning and afternoon sessions by taking the register. If no formal register is taken, the teacher will call out the names of the pupils to catch their attention and to indicate that the session has begun.

Seating arrangements

- The teacher will consciously decide upon and plan the seating arrangements for pupils in order to maximise educational attainment. Arrangements will be changed to suit different activities and to allow students to work independently. A seating plan should be available for those providing cover when the teacher is absent.

The classroom

- It is imperative that the learning environment maximises opportunities to learn. Displays are changed on a **termly** basis and geared towards aiding learning, not providing distraction. Desks should be free from clutter and arranged in a manner providing suitable space for all. The room is well-ventilated and maintained at a suitable temperature. All pupils are encouraged to drink water during lessons (except in science lessons where water could create a risk).
- Working walls are to be updated and added to as the subject/lessons are being taught, providing a prompt for learning.

Teaching Sessions

- At St Aidan's, we ensure our teaching sessions are structured with clear routines that identify and address misconceptions through retrieval practice quizzes or questioning.
- We refer to previous learning, recapping what has already been taught to ensure that schemata are supporting the retention of knowledge.
- We use our curriculum progression documents to support us in pitching the learning appropriately for each class.
- We place an emphasis on verbal feedback which supports the children during the task, rather than relying solely on marking. Summative and formative assessment is used to provide a clear understanding of pupils' knowledge and identify any gaps.
- Within the lessons, regular opportunities for consolidation are given which support the secure retention of knowledge.
- Consistency across all year groups in the approach to teaching ensures children are given the best possible chance of retaining the knowledge and skills they need to be successful.
- Homework tasks, where given, consolidate key skills such as times tables, reading or spelling.

Teaching strategies

The curriculum

- Reception classes follow the EYFS profile. Years 1-6 follow the national curriculum. Programmes of study are adapted to fit mixed age classes.
- The curriculum is balanced, with suitable proportions of time spent on statutory and non-statutory subjects. The curriculum is carefully timetabled, and content is suitable for the age and ability of the pupils. In addition, the curriculum is made accessible to all through differentiation and the provision of the necessary resources.
- While teaching the national curriculum, wider aspects of learning, such as the development of social skills and self-esteem, also form a significant part of pupils' education.

Planning and preparation

- Lessons are clearly linked to the national curriculum. They are differentiated to clearly show how pupils of all abilities are catered for.
- Lessons have clearly identified learning objectives and success criteria, showing continuity from one lesson to the next.
- Lesson plans clearly show how teaching assistants are used to enhance learning. Each plan contains a list of resources to be used during the lesson and how these resources will complement teaching.
- The school gives teachers adequate preparation, planning and assessment (PPA) time, as per the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD).

Delivery

- Lessons are delivered in a confident, lively style with good projection. Lessons are balanced, in terms of teacher and pupil-led activities, and cater for different learning styles. A range of lesson types are used including practical, visual, dramatic, investigative and group work.

Resources

- Resources are prepared in advance and made readily available to pupils. They are accessible to all and appropriate for the learning objectives of the lesson. In addition, they cater to pupils' different learning styles. Resources are shared between teachers and departments in order to facilitate good practice.

In-class support

- TAs are actively involved in the lesson to aid pupils' learning. They are involved in prior planning and preparation, and possess a good knowledge of the needs of individual pupils. They support different focus groups at different times (for example, pupils with SEND and academically more able pupils). In some circumstances, TAs are utilised on a one-to-one basis with a child in need of additional help.

Pupil involvement

- Pupils are provided opportunities to follow-up teachers' marking with questions. Pupils are also allowed opportunities to mark their work (self-assessment), and that of their peers (peer-to-peer assessment). The learning objective of each lesson is explained at the start and displayed throughout.

High expectations

- The school sets high expectations for all pupils, regardless of ability, circumstances or needs.

SEND

- Pupils with SEND are treated as individuals.
- Every pupil is provided with the appropriate support.
- Pupils causing concern are discussed informally at **weekly** staff meetings and more formally at Pupil Progress Meetings and, if necessary, additional professional support is provided. Teachers also discuss, informally, the needs of individual pupils, enabling all teachers to be aware of pupils requiring support.
- In addition, the school has adopted a **SEND Policy** containing strategies and procedures for assisting our pupils with SEND.

Assessment

Baseline assessment

- Pupils joining the school will receive a baseline assessment when they start.
- Strategies for baseline assessment include:
- Use of past national curriculum tests.
- Assessing pupil progress over the first **six weeks** that they are enrolled.
- Cognitive ability tests which test ability in verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning, rather than national curriculum content.
- Following the introduction of the Reception baseline assessment in 2020, the school will adopt an approved baseline scheme in line with the DfE's 'Assessment Framework: Reception Baseline Assessment'.

Formative assessment (assessment for learning)

- Formative assessment creates a positive learning environment where pupils can see the steps necessary for their own success. It enables teachers to set appropriate work at the level necessary for pupils' continuing progress.
- Formative assessment is a powerful way of raising pupils' achievement. It is based on the principle that pupils will improve most if they understand the aim of their learning, where they are in relation to this aim and how they can achieve the aim.
- Formative assessments are used to:
 - Identify pupils' strengths and gaps in their skills/knowledge.
 - Identify the next steps for learning.
 - Inform future planning.
 - Enable appropriate strategies to be employed.
 - Facilitate the setting of appropriate targets for the class, group and individual.
 - Track the pupil's rate of progress.
 - Facilitate an evaluation of the effectiveness of teaching and learning.
 - Inform future teaching and learning strategies.
 - Identify individuals and groups for specific intervention support.
- Formative assessment will not be punitive. It is used to guide teaching and learning and help pupils achieve their targets. It is not used to judge a teacher's performance.
- Formative assessment is not included as part of a pupil's final grade, but will be recorded as part of individual learning plans (ILPs).
- Methods of formative assessment include the following:
 - Question and answer sessions
 - Hot seating
 - Quizzes
 - Self-assessment

Summative assessment (assessment of learning)

- Summative assessment is important for:
 - Accurate information regarding a pupil's attainment and progress.
 - Informing both parents and teachers of a pupil's attainment and progress.
- Summative assessments:
 - Identify attainment through one-off tests at any given point in time.
 - Record performance in a specific area on a specific date.
 - Provide end of key stage test data against which the school will be judged.
 - Ensure statutory assessments at the end of KS1 and KS2.
 - Provide information about cohort areas of strength and weakness to build from in the future.
 - Are used to determine a pupil's final grade.

- Are used to judge a teacher's performance.
- Are used to monitor the progress of individuals and groups of pupils.
- Methods of summative assessment include:
 - End of topic test/quiz
 - External examinations such as the national curriculum tests.
 - Double page spread assessments

EYFS

Focussed observations

Focussed observation is carried out at varying points of the week. This involves focussing on the child and documenting what they do (this may involve written note taking or video recording). If appropriate, the adult will support play when conducting this observation. The focussed observation is then analysed and the next steps are identified and planned for, for the following week. The children will have at least one focussed observation per term.

Short observations

These are short, spontaneous 'capture the moment' observations. Teachers and early years practitioners (EYPs) document onto sticky notes what the child has done. These are then annotated with the appropriate band and filed into the child's individual learning journal along with long observations. Both the long and short observations are used to provide evidence to assess and complete the EYFS Profile, and **termly** judgements are made using this information.

Focus activity

During focussed activities, teaching staff write comments on the child's work, using sticky notes, often identifying the level of support needed or if the work was done independently. Children are encouraged to discuss their work and next steps are also discussed with the children in child friendly terms.

All of the information collated over the year provides the evidence base for the early learning goals at the end of Reception

KS1 and KS2

Teachers use assessment for learning to provide on-going assessment, through the use of focussed marking and/or observations of pupils' work, against learning objectives and success criteria. This information is then used to assess progress towards meeting learning targets, and to identify and set next step targets for each pupil.

Annotated plans and planning notes, made by class teachers and other adults involved with each pupil, record other important information about the progress of children in the class.

Termly tests may be used to identify progress and gaps in learning. The tracking grids identify under-achieving pupils and set targets in reading, writing and maths for individual pupils and groups.

Termly pupil progress reviews are used to identify and analyse progress and set targets in reading, writing and maths for classes and cohorts.

Planning for assessment

The national curriculum programmes of study are used to guide our teaching. These documents provide us with the framework to ensure breadth and balance in our curriculum.

Lessons contain clear learning objectives, based upon the teacher's detailed knowledge of each pupil. We strive to ensure all tasks set are appropriate to each pupil's level of ability.

Teachers use focussed marking to assess pupils' progress in relation to the planned learning objectives, and set the next steps to show where the pupil is in relation to this aim and how they can achieve the aim. Teachers use this information when planning for subsequent lessons.

Assessment methods/materials

Teachers use a range of assessment tools and materials (including analysis of pupils' work in books, guided reading records and results of class tests/published tests), alongside on-going focussed marking and notes of pupil observations, to inform their assessment of progress for individual pupils and groups.

Results of published tests are used to contribute to overall teacher assessments.

Reporting

Reporting to parents provides the opportunity for communication about their child's achievements, abilities and future targets. End of year reports are written so that they have a positive effect on pupils' attitudes, motivation and self-esteem.

We provide opportunities for one parent consultation evening/day so that parents can discuss how well their child has settled and are able to be involved in the target setting process. In addition, we provide opportunities for a mid-year progress report and a final end-of-year report. Following receipt of their child's report, parents are able to request a further parent-teacher consultation if they wish. We provide parents with an end-of-year written report before the end of the Summer term, which includes the results of statutory tests and assessments, and gives information relating to progress and attainment

We give parents the opportunity to discuss their child's progress, by appointment.

We will publish the following KS2 results on our school website:

- Average progress scores in reading, writing and maths
- Average 'scaled scores' in reading and maths
- Percentage of pupils who achieved the expected standard or above in reading, writing and maths
- Percentage of pupils who achieved a high level of attainment in reading, writing and maths

We will provide a link to our performance tables on our school website.

We also provide reports for pupils at the end of KS1 and KS2 which include the outcomes of national curriculum assessments.

KS1

Reports for pupils at the end of KS1 will include:

- Outcomes of the statutory national curriculum teacher assessment in English reading, English writing, maths and science.
- A statement that teacher assessment outcomes take into account the results of statutory national curriculum tests in English reading and maths.
- Where appropriate, a statement explaining why any national curriculum test has not been taken.
- Comparative information about the attainment of pupils of the same age in the school.
- Comparative information about the attainment in the core subjects of pupils of the same age nationally.

KS2

Reports for pupils at the end of KS2 will include:

- The results of any national curriculum tests taken, including the pupil's scaled score, and whether they met the expected standard.
- The outcomes of statutory national curriculum teacher assessments in English reading, English writing, maths and science.
- Where appropriate, a statement explaining why any national curriculum test has not been taken.
- Comparative information about the attainment of pupils of the same age in the school.
- Comparative information about the attainment of pupils of the same age in the school.

Moderation

- Regular moderation of levelling takes place each term to ensure consistency.
- Teachers meet in phase groups or in cross phase groups to analyse pupils' work against national curriculum or EYFS requirements.
- Teachers in the 5 AXIA schools meet in year groups annually to moderate children's work.
- During the Summer term, teachers in Reception, Year 2 and Year 6 are involved in formal teacher assessments, as part of end of key stage assessments and LA moderation.

Individual learning

Individual teaching plans (ITPs)

ITPs are available for pupils who are not progressing as expected, to allow pupils to lead their own achievement.

ITPs are continually reviewed on an informal basis and half termly on a formal basis to ensure that they are still effective.

EHC plans

Some young people with SEND may require additional support from professionals outside of the school setting. In these cases, the views of parents, psychologists and further specialists will be sought. Based on these views, and in collaboration with the pupil, an EHC plan will be sought.

More information can be found in the school's **SEND Policy**.

Monitoring and reporting

This policy will be reviewed **annually** by the **headteacher**

The governors' annual report will contain updates and analysis regarding teaching and learning at the school.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is **January 2024**.