



St Columba C of E Primary School



Teaching and Learning Policy January 2024 – January 2025

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This policy will provide us with clear expectations around teaching and learning, [which are central to the -of-outcomes for](#) which we are all held to account . The implementation -will enable us to ensure that every child at St Columba C of E Primary School [reaches](#) their God given potential.

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- A. Explain how we'll create an environment at our school where pupils learn best and love to do so
- B. Summarise expectations to make sure everyone is committed to achieving a consistent approach to teaching and learning across our school
- C. Promote high expectations and raising standards of achievement for all pupils in our school
- D. Involve pupils, parents and the wider school community in pupils' learning and development

2. Our guiding principles

Our Vision
Growing futures rooted in Love, Hope and Respect
Our Core Christian Values
Love , Hope, Respect

Pupils learn best at our school when they:

- A. Have their basic physical needs met
- B. Feel secure, safe and valued
- C. Feel a sense of belonging to the group
- D. Are engaged and motivated
- E. Can see the relevance of what they are doing
- F. Know what outcome is intended
- G. Can link what they are doing to other experiences
- H. Understand the task
- I. Have the physical space and the tools needed
- J. Have access to the necessary materials
- K. Are not disrupted or distracted by others
- L. Can work with others or on their own, depending on the task
- M. Are guided, taught or helped in appropriate ways at appropriate times
- N. Can practice what they are learning



- O. Can apply the learning in both familiar and new contexts
- P. Can persevere when learning is hard
- Q. Can manage their emotions if things are not going well
- R. Recognise that all learners make mistakes and mistakes can help us learn

3. Roles and responsibilities

Teaching and learning in our school is a shared responsibility, and everyone in our school community has an important role to play. Expectations are that you will seek support, advice or guidance should you struggle to meet any aspects of this policy.

[Home School Agreement](#)

This is how we will create the above conditions for pupils' learning at all times:

3.1 Teachers

Teachers at our school will:

- A. Follow the expectations for teaching and professional conduct as set out in the [Teachers Standards](#)
- B. Sequence lessons in a way that allows pupils to make good progress from their starting points
- C. Actively engage parents/carers in their child's learning through: informal chats at the end of the school day, half termly curriculum overviews, open afternoons (Phonics, math's, reading and curriculum events),
- D. Update parents/carers on pupils' progress at twice yearly parent teacher consultation, and produce an annual written report on their child's progress in Summer Term 2
- E. Meet the expectations set out in the school's curriculum statement, behaviour policy, and feedback policy, DCAT Handbook.
- F. Use agreed assessment for learning strategies
- G. Use effective marking and feedback as required
- H. Engage in providing inspiring lessons and learning opportunities
- I. Demonstrate and model themselves as learners
- J. Engage in CPD

3.2 Support staff

Support staff at our school will:

- A. Know pupils well and adapt support to meet their individual learning needs
- B. Actively engage with pupils during teacher input so all learners can access the curriculum
- C. Support teaching and learning with flexibility and resourcefulness
- D. Use agreed assessment for learning strategies
- E. Use effective marking and feedback as required
- F. Engage in providing inspiring lessons and learning opportunities
- G. Feedback observations of pupils to teachers



- H. Ask questions to make sure they've understood expectations for learning
- I. Identify and use resources to support learning
- J. Have high expectations and celebrate achievement
- K. Demonstrate and model themselves as learners
- L. Meet the expectations set out in the curriculum statement, behaviour policy, feedback policy, DCAT Handbook.
- M. Engage in CPD.

3.3 Subject leaders

Subject leaders at our school will:

- A. Help to create well-sequenced, broad and balanced curriculum plans that build knowledge and skills
- B. Resource their subject, providing teachers with necessary resources for learning
- C. Drive improvement in their subject/phase, working with teachers to identify any challenges
- D. Moderate progress across their subject/phase by, for example, systematically reviewing progress against a range of evidence and reviewing qualitative and quantitative performance data
- E. Report on and improve on weaknesses identified in their monitoring activities
- F. Create and share clear intentions for their subject
- G. Encourage teachers to share ideas, resources and good practice
- H. Meet the expectations set out in the curriculum statement, behaviour policy, feedback policy, DCAT Handbook.

3.4 Senior leaders

Senior leaders at our school will:

- A. Have a clear and ambitious vision for providing high-quality, inclusive education to all
- B. Celebrate achievement and have high expectations for everyone
- C. Hold staff and pupils to account for their teaching and learning
- D. Plan and evaluate strategies to secure high-quality teaching and learning across the school
- E. Manage resources to support high-quality teaching and learning
- F. Provide support and guidance to other staff through coaching and mentoring
- G. Input and monitor the impact of continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities to improve staff's practice and subject knowledge
- H. Promote team working at all levels, for example by buddying teachers up to support one another where appropriate
- I. Address underachievement and intervene promptly with clear procedures for capability and misconduct
- J. Meet the expectations set out in the curriculum statement, behaviour policy, marking and feedback policy, DCAT Handbook.

3.5 Pupils



Pupils at our school will:

- A. Take responsibility for their own learning, and support the learning of others
- B. Meet expectations for positive behaviour for learning at all times, respecting the rights of others to learn
- C. Attend school on time and be ready to learn.
- D. Be curious, ambitious, engaged and confident learners
- E. Put maximum effort and focus into their work
- F. Complete home learning activities as required – including reading at home daily
- G. Wear the correct school uniform to promote the sense of belonging
- H. Meet the expectations set out in the home school agreement and the behaviour policy.
- I. Be 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'

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3.6 Parents and carers

Parents and carers of pupils at our school will:

- A. Sign and adhere to our; [home-school-agreement](#) [Adult Code of Conduct](#)
- B. Value learning
- C. Encourage their child as a learner
- D. Make sure their child is ready and able to learn every day
- E. Support good attendance
- F. Participate in discussions about their child's progress and attainment Communicate with the school to share information promptly
- G. Provide resources as required to support learning
- H. Encourage their child to take responsibility for their own learning
- I. Support and give importance to home learning and reading at home
- J. Promote the sense of belonging by providing their child with the correct uniform. [Uniform Policy](#)

3.7 Transition Board/ Governors

Governors at our school will:

- A. Monitor that resources and funding are allocated effectively to support the school's approach to teaching and learning
- B. Monitor the impact of teaching and learning strategies on pupils' progress and attainment
- C. Monitor the effectiveness of this policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation
- D. Make sure other school policies promote high-quality teaching, and that these are being implemented.

4. Planning

Our Curriculum at St Columba C of E Primary School:



In late 2022, we invested a significant amount of time in developing a knowledge-rich curriculum to give our pupils access to the very best curriculum content. This ensures that pupils secure a solid base to build on as they move through school and into Key Stage 3 and beyond. Our curriculum is ambitious and goes beyond the requirements outlined in the national curriculum.

The St Columba curriculum is designed with knowledge at its heart to ensure that children develop a strong vocabulary base and an extensive understanding of the world. The curriculum promotes long-term learning, and the children show us their progress through knowing more and remembering more.

We make use of curriculum overviews to ensure children know exactly which information is expected to be learned over the course of their study in a particular subject and unit. These curriculum overviews are put on to the school website each half term. One of the central aims of the curriculum is to ensure that our pupils are both "interesting and interested". We want them to be 'interesting' to talk to, because they know a great deal about the world and 'interested' in finding out more. We believe that knowledge breeds curiosity - as pupils learn more about the world they become more curious. It is very difficult to be curious about something that you don't know anything about. We understand that knowledge is 'sticky', in other words, the more pupils know, the easier it is for them to know more. As a result, we carefully check and activate prior knowledge to ensure our pupils are able to understand and remember new things they are learning.

This is why we place particular emphasis on children knowing by heart and building rich webs of knowledge as they progress through the curriculum. Parents have knowledge of what their children are learning through the curriculum overviews and can support this work through discussions with their child.

Lessons will be planned well to ensure good short-, medium- and long-term progress. This includes a long-term overview, a medium-term objective plan and daily lesson plans.

Our EYFS curriculum is the pre cursor to our KS1 and KS2 curriculum and is the foundation for good academic progress.

5. Learning environment

When pupils are at school, learning will take place in classrooms, outdoor spaces, including the field and forest area and main hall.

These spaces will be kept safe, clean and ready for pupils to make full use of them.

They will be arranged to promote learning through:

- A. Comfortable and attractive zones such as reading corners (see Destination Reader guidance for KS2 book corners)
- B. A daily updated visual timetable
- C. Accessible and labelled resources for learning such as books and other equipment
- D. Maths and English and/or phonics working walls which reflect current learning
- E. Engaging topic and science walls with key vocabulary and children's work
- F. RE/ worship area
- G. Cursive alphabet (upper and lower case)
- H. Age appropriate number line
- I. Behaviour chart with positive praise levels
- J. Being "Ready, Respectful and Safe"
- K. A seating layout that allows everyone to see the board and participate
- L. Displays that celebrate and support all pupils' learning

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- M. Demonstrable pride in all areas, including cloakroom and lockers
- N. EYFS having the 7 areas of learning in both the inside and outside areas.

6. Adaptation

All teaching and learning at our school will take the backgrounds, needs and abilities of all pupils into account. We will assess the children's starting points then plan to adapt learning to cater to the needs of all of our pupils, including:

- A. Using support staff effectively to provide extra support and challenge
- B. Working with our SEN co-ordinator (SENCO), our pupils with SEND, and their parents to establish the appropriate level of material to support these pupils to make accelerated progress
- C. Providing our children with explicit instruction and clear modelling.
- D. Teaching and using cognitive and metacognitive strategies to help pupils monitor and evaluate their own learning,
- E. Providing an appropriate scaffold to reduce the reliance on adult support, allowing for flexible groupings, and using technology to support.

For more information, please see the following:

[SEND policy](#)

[NASEN Teacher Handbook](#)

7. Home learning

Home learning, or homework, will support pupils to make the link between what they have learnt in school and the wider world. It's most effective when done in a supportive, secure environment, with focused time set aside.

Home learning at St Columba will consist of daily reading, spelling/high frequency words/phonics and a maths activity (Mathletics)

Home learning will be reasonable in challenge and length, and its purpose will be clearly outlined alongside each task.

8. Marking and feedback

Feedback will clearly explain to pupils what they're doing well and what they need to do next to continue to improve their work, as outlined in the feedback policy.

9. Assessment, recording and reporting

We will track pupils' progress using a combination of formative (within a lesson, assessment for learning) and summative (at the end of a unit, assessment of learning) assessment.

We will hold pupil progress meetings at least 3 times a year, where each pupil is discussed in detail with class teacher, SENCO and headteacher. From these discussions, progress will be evaluated, needs unpicked and interventions planned if required.

Appropriate screenings and assessments are carried out to identify interventions and support. Any intervention will start with an assessed starting point and the end assessment will clearly track progress.

We will provide regular (3 times a year) verbal reports at parents' evenings.

Pupils will receive a written report annually.



10. Monitoring and evaluation

We will monitor teaching and learning in our school to make sure that all of our pupils make the best possible progress from their starting points.

School leaders will monitor and evaluate the impact of teaching on pupils' learning through:

- A. Conducting learning walks (drop ins) and formal observations
- B. Reviewing marking and feedback
- C. Termly (2,4 and 6) pupil progress meetings
- D. Gathering input from the school council and Pupil Voice
- E. Book reviews and scrutiny

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed every year by the SLT and Transition board. At every review, the policy will be shared with the full Transition Board.

12. Links with other policies

This policy links with the following policies and procedures:

- A. Behaviour policy
- B. Curriculum statement
- C. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) policy
- D. SEND policy and information report
- E. Marking and feedback policy
- F. Home-school agreement
- G. Equality information and objectives