



Nettlebed Community School

High Street, Nettlebed, Oxon, RG9 5DA

Tel: 01491 641328

Fax: 01491 641899

Email: office.2504@nettlebed.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Bethany Greenwood

Teaching and Learning Policy

Introduction

At Nettlebed 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.

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 pupils to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential. Through our teaching we aim to:

- enable pupils to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners;
- foster pupils' self-esteem and help them build positive relationships with other people;
- develop pupils' self-respect and encourage children to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others;
- show respect for all cultures and, in so doing, promote positive attitudes towards other people;
- enable pupils to understand their community and help them feel valued as part of this community;
- help pupils grow into reliable, independent and positive citizens;
- prepare our pupils for the next stage of their education.

Effective learning

We acknowledge that people learn in many different ways and we recognize the need to develop strategies that allow all pupils to learn in ways that best suit them; these include:

- investigation and problem solving;
- research and finding out;
- group work;
- paired work;
- independent work;
- whole-class work;
- asking and answering questions;
- use of technology and multi-media

Date of policy –
Reviewed – December 2016
Next review –





Nettlebed Community School

High Street, Nettlebed, Oxon, RG9 5DA

Tel: 01491 641328

Fax: 01491 641899

Email: office.2504@nettlebed.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Bethany Greenwood

-
- fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest;
 - creative activities;
 - debates, role-plays and oral presentations;
 - designing and making things;
 - participation in athletic or physical activity.
-
- We encourage pupils 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 they find challenging.

We actively involve the pupils in giving feedback on their learning experiences so they can have a real influence on their future direction.

Effective teaching

When teaching we focus on motivating the pupils and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. We use the National Curriculum to guide our teaching. This sets out aims, objectives and values of detailing what is to be taught to each year group. We try, where possible, to link together areas of learning so that the curriculum is coherent. To this end, we plan some areas of study which are taught through the whole school.

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 pupil's level of ability. When planning work for pupils with special educational needs we give due regard to information and targets contained in their outcome plans. We have high expectations of all pupils, and we encourage them to aspire to the highest possible standards in their work.

We plan our lessons with clear learning objectives. We take these objectives from the National Curriculum. Our lesson plans contain information about the tasks to be set, the resources needed, and the way we assess pupils' work. We evaluate our lessons so that we can modify and improve our teaching in the future.

Teaching staff make a special effort to establish good working relationships with all pupils in the class. We treat the pupils 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 positive relationships and classroom management. We set and agree with pupils the class code of conduct. We expect all pupils to follow the rules that they jointly devise to promote the best learning opportunities for all. We praise pupils for their efforts and, by so doing, we help to build positive attitudes towards school and learning in general. We have high expectations in terms of behaviour; when a pupil is not making appropriate behaviour



Nettlebed Community School

High Street, Nettlebed, Oxon, RG9 5DA

Tel: 01491 641328

Fax: 01491 641899

Email: office.2504@nettlebed.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Bethany Greenwood

choices, we discuss the consequences of this with them in accordance with our relationships policy.

We ensure that all tasks and activities that the pupils do are safe. When we plan to take pupils out of school, we first inform parents and obtain their permission closely following the guidelines set out in the "Out and About with Oxfordshire" handbook.

We deploy teaching assistants and other adult helpers as effectively as possible. Sometimes they work with individual pupils and sometimes they work with groups. Teaching assistants' individual strengths are identified through a process of performance management and they then may specialise in a specific area of special needs. They develop skills in this area through practical experience training and are then able to deliver specialist areas of intervention.

Our classrooms are attractive learning environments. We change displays to ensure that the classroom reflects the topics studied. We ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to display their best work at some time during the year. All classes have access to a range of dictionaries and fiction and non-fiction books, with displays relating to English and maths. 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 through an annual appraisal process of performance management 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-evaluation processes. These include reports from



Nettlebed Community School

High Street, Nettlebed, Oxon, RG9 5DA

Tel: 01491 641328

Fax: 01491 641899

Email: office.2504@nettlebed.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Bethany Greenwood

subject leaders and the termly head teacher's report to governors as well as a review of the in-service training sessions attended by our staff.

The role of parents and carers

We believe that parents have a fundamental role to play in helping their children to learn. We do all we can to inform parents about what and how their children are learning by:

- holding a parent information session at the start of each academic year. This covers the curriculum provision for the forthcoming year, timetable information and all other relevant pieces of information. It provides an opportunity for parents to ask questions about the forthcoming academic year.
- sending information to parents at the start of each term in which we outline the topics that the classes will be studying during that term at school; plus updating the school website regularly.
- hosting whole school parents' evenings to explain our school strategies for teaching English, maths and other subjects;
- meeting parents and carers at least twice a year for a formal, private consultation. This gives parents the opportunity to celebrate their child's success and support the child with any area of development.
- sending annual reports to parents in which we explain the progress made by each child and indicate how their child can improve further;
- explaining to parents how they can support their children with homework.

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;
- fulfil the requirements set out in the home/school agreement.

We encourage parents to contact the class teacher in the first instance if any issues arise regarding their child's progress or well-being.

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 annually.

Date of policy –
Reviewed – December 2016
Next review –





Nettlebed Community School

High Street, Nettlebed, Oxon, RG9 5DA

Tel: 01491 641328

Fax: 01491 641899

Email: office.2504@nettlebed.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Bethany Greenwood

Signed: Fleur Stephens (on behalf of GB)

Date: 29.12.2016

Appendix 1 Classroom Essentials

As a teaching team we have agreed that the following represent the key features of a good learning environment.

- Classrooms should be tidy and organised
- Visual timetable is visible to all
- The learning objective (We Are Learning To – WALT) is clear
- Pupils can discuss how they know they will be successful in their learning
- Rules, class codes of conduct and reward charts should be displayed.
- Displays should be colourful, enticing and up to date
- Rooms should be comfortable
- Information on display should be informative and clear
- Key vocabulary should be on display
- School rules, values and British Values should be on display
- Thought provoking ideas and questions should be incorporated in lessons
- All resources are accessible to all pupils
- Pupils are working together collaboratively
- Adults are guiding pupils and facilitating their learning
- Learning time is used effectively
- Pupils are proactive and independent learners
- There is good quality discussion, questioning and evidence of pupils leading their learning
- Work is focused and time bound