

ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



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LEARNING AND TEACHING POLICY (Non-statutory School Policy)

Ownership: Curriculum Committee

Document Date: Spring 2024

Review Date: Spring 2025

This policy should be read in conjunction with the:

Curriculum Policy
Behaviour Policy
Feedback and Marking Policy
SEND Policy

Pupils in St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School are happy, confident and very proud of their school. They clearly understand their mission statement, 'Jesus lives in us, our families, our school, our church, our world. Jesus is our guide, let us follow Him.' They can quote scripture to give examples of how they do their best to follow Jesus every day. Pupils explain that if they ever feel worried about something they are confident that adults will help them in a discreet and caring way. They are fully aware of their responsibilities towards the more vulnerable members of society and can reference Catholic social teaching when discussing their work with the local foodbank.

Catholic Schools Inspectorate October 2024

Pupils enjoy school. They respond well to the high expectations of staff. Pupils strive to do their best and achieve well. Pupils are extremely kind and caring. They frequently give up their free time to help each other. Lessons are free from disruption and lunchtimes are a buzz of happy and harmonious play.

Ofsted May 2024

*At St Margaret Clitherow School we are committed to Safeguarding Children
Jesus lives in us, our families, our school, our Church, our world. Jesus is our guide, let us follow Him*

1. Introduction

St Margaret Clitherow School is a caring, hardworking and cooperative environment for learning where the principle of life-long learning underpins all that we do. Our Mission statement guides daily practice and supports an expectation of personal excellence for everyone in their spiritual, moral, social and academic life. Our Learning and Teaching Policy aims to ensure that teachers, parents/carers and pupils are partners in learning experiences, enabling pupils to develop the necessary skills, values and attributes to fulfil their unique potential.

Our policy and practice are underpinned by our School Values. (See Appendix 1).

2. Aims and Objectives

Learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone. 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 life. We believe that appropriate teaching and learning experiences help children to lead happy, rewarding and purposeful lives.

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.

At St Margaret Clitherow we aim to:

- develop successful learners who are creative and able to identify and solve problems;
- enable children to become confident, enquiring and independent learners;
- develop imaginative and enquiring minds, the ability to question and reason rationally and apply their understanding;
- foster children's self esteem and help them build positive relationships with other people;
- encourage a respect for the ideas, attitudes, values, feelings and beliefs of others;
- foster skills for life-long learning;
- respect and celebrate diversity;
- encourage a deeper understanding of their community and help them to feel valued as part of this community;
- develop the necessary skills that will enable pupils to act as effective citizens.

3. Partnerships

Effective learning requires partnerships:

- peer to peer;
- between pupils and teachers;
- between pupils and teaching assistants;
- between parents/carers, pupils and the school;
- between staff, parents/carers, pupils and governors;
- between the school and other agencies;
- between the school and the wider community.

We work hard to ensure that energy and resources are devoted to developing these partnerships. Good communication between home and school is the key to success in this area. The school operates an 'open door' policy and proactively engages in dialogue with parents/carers to ensure that learning potential is maximised. The school website and twitter are used as a tool to engage parents/carers with their children's learning.

4. We believe that learning should be:

Active

Pupils are encouraged to ask questions, make decisions, select resources, demonstrate and be involved (rather than compliant) in their education.

Reflective

We use open questions and encourage the pupils to evaluate their learning at various stages throughout a lesson; shared success criteria, sometimes built up by the pupils themselves enabling pupils to evaluate their learning and progress.

Based upon progression

Pupils are encouraged to practise new skills, evaluate their success and extend their learning which is built up carefully step by step through differentiated learning opportunities.

Open to risk

Pupils (and teachers) must be willing to take a risk in responding to the challenge of new learning. In order to be open to the challenge of new learning we aim to develop appropriate behaviours for learning (eg. resilience and determination).

Cooperative

We rarely learn on our own (although we might at times need the space to do this). Shared learning, through group or paired work is a powerful learning tool. Talk partners and sharing in groups will enable pupils the chance to practise their learning in a secure environment. Pupils are encouraged to develop the important skills of empathy, good listening and imitation through working with their peers in a range of situations.

Stimulating and engaging

Pupils are actively involved in their learning and are supported to work in a variety of ways throughout lessons. Pupils learn best in a variety of ways and, therefore, we aim to ensure that there are appropriate opportunities over time to cater for different learning styles (auditory, visual and kinaesthetic). Children are challenged to move their learning on through active participation in learning opportunities. Carefully planned dialogue with their teacher, other adults and peers aims to engage and enthuse pupils.

Motivating

Children should want to learn and therefore effort, determination and cooperation are praised alongside personal achievement. We encourage children to feel motivated by an internal appreciation of success (it feels good to know that you have helped yourself to learn). Children are motivated in different ways and adults aim to get to know what sort of motivation works best for individual children.

Focused on 'how to learn'

Children need to develop independent learning behaviours which will enable them to cope with the new learning needs as they move through life.

5. As a result effective teaching should:

- be dynamic and creative, aiming to inspire and engage all pupils;
- be part of a carefully (but not rigidly) planned sequence of learning;
- ensure that teaching is matched to the needs of individuals and groups;
- enable progress between lessons and within lessons;
- be at an appropriate pace;

- set high but realistic expectations for learners;
- use a range of teaching strategies suited to learners and learning
- encourage independence, resilience, perseverance and determination;
- make use of established routines;
- be personalised to the interests of the learner;
- make effective use of ICT for learning;
- make effective use of other adults;
- provide opportunities for pupils to work independently, in pairs and in groups;
- make use of skilled and targeted open questioning;
- provide suitable challenge for all;
- develop effective relationships;
- be based upon continuous assessment, building upon prior learning;
- be open to change of direction as required by learning;
- provide opportunities for effective and timely feedback to learners (including peer to peer feedback);
- make use of clear (and sometimes pupil derived) success criteria and learning objectives;
- encourage confidence;
- make learning an enjoyable experience.

6. Learning depends upon effective relationships

We aim to establish good personal relationships by:

- establishing clear expectations, creating trust among the staff, between staff and children and between the children;
- fostering mutual respect among the whole school community where all are friendly and polite at all times;
- valuing our parents/carers as partners and co-educators;
- encouraging good communication where everyone listens to each other and responds in a positive manner;
- enabling children to be aware of their feelings and find appropriate ways to express them;
- being firm but fair and consistent;
- empowering children to express their opinions through knowing that their ideas will be valued;
- creating an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding in which children value each other;
- providing a PSHE curriculum supported by a Catholic ethos that underpins the learning and values taught in the school.

7. Learning Environment

The environment is carefully designed to support learning. A good learning environment will:

- support the spiritual, moral, social and educational development of all pupils;
- make use of all areas for learning, including the outdoors;
- be tidy & safe, allowing pupils the necessary room to work and to participate actively in their learning;
- be free from clutter and unnecessary distraction;
- facilitate a range of teaching and learning styles through careful organisation of furniture and equipment;
- be well resourced;
- enable independence through easily accessible, labelled resources and through visible prompts for learning;
- promote the development of basic skills such as reading, writing and maths;
- promote the development of speaking and listening skills
- enable pupils to evaluate their success;
- celebrate a range of pupils' current work from a range of subjects, promoting good presentation;

- reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of the school population wherever possible;
- promote inclusion to meet children's individual needs.

8. Curriculum Planning

Teachers are responsible for ensuring that their planning meets the requirements of the National Curriculum. Subject leaders are responsible for ensuring that there is an appropriate coverage and progression of skills within their subjects.

Values of St. Margaret Clitheroe School

Justice

