



## CROSSENS NURSERY SCHOOL - TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY

Our Teaching and Learning Policy is the core policy of the Nursery School. It informs best practice and enables all children to make progress in all areas of learning. It has been designed by the staff team.

It should be used regularly to help evaluate and adapt practice to ensure that we provide the best possible education for the children at Crossens Nursery. This policy is supported by and promotes the school's equal opportunities practice.

### **Aims of the Policy**

- To involve everyone in learning and to develop a proactive and growth mindset
- To ensure rigour, consistency and continuity in our approach
- To ensure that the quality of learning and improvement of standards continues; providing children with the best possible life chances
- To set out our expectations for best practice
- Provide a tool for monitoring, evaluation, accountability and school improvement

**The school vision is at the heart of all teaching and learning activities.**

### **WHAT IS LEARNING?**

At Crossens Nursery we have defined learning as:

***'The process of engaging in new and challenging experiences with a view to building knowledge and developing understanding and skills'***

We teach for progress. This means that we work to ensure that all pupils are improving skills, knowledge and understanding across all experiences and activities both socially and academically.

### **AS A STAFF TEAM, WE BELIEVE THAT CHILDREN LEARN BEST WHEN:**

- They are happy and feel safe
- They explore, experiment and experience
- There are clear and consistent high expectations
- They are challenged and supported
- They are interested, curious and motivated
- They have a 'growth mind-set'; they reflect on their mistakes and use them as learning opportunities
- They take part in high quality, well-planned experiences.
- The physical learning environment is stimulating and well-resourced

### **STRATEGIES USED TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE LEARNING**

**To help children feel happy and safe, we will:**

- Treat them fairly and consistently
- Show them that we enjoy close working with their families in support of their learning and development
- Smile at them, greet them and show genuine concern for their wellbeing so that they develop positive, trusting relationships with adults
- Value their ideas and opinions and make time to listen to what they have to say
- Give them opportunities to take part in child initiated, adult initiated and adult focused activities
- Build their confidence and self-esteem

- Provide opportunities for relaxation /energising, in and between activities, according to their needs
- Ensure that the Nursery is visually attractive and welcoming;
- Ensure that they feel 'ownership' through personal spaces, name tags, responsibilities etc.
- Rigorously implement safeguarding, equalities and behaviour for learning policies

**To help children explore, experiment and experience, we will:**

- Provide an interesting, tactile, visual and topic related resources to use /learn from /ask questions about
- Look for every opportunity to identify and praise success
- Provide opportunities for child-led exploration and investigation
- Ensure ICT is an integral part of learning
- Invite members of the local and global community to share with children their knowledge and experiences
- Celebrate variety in culture, religion and language
- Ensure that provision is broad, balanced, motivating and inspiring

**To help children by ensuring that there are clear and consistent high expectations, we will:**

- Implement the school behaviour consistently
- Give children clear goals and time limits
- Have high and clearly communicated expectations that every adult on the school premises will set a good example as a member of the community
- Involve them in self-assessment and target setting, where appropriate
- Explain the learning expectations clearly
- Ensure that they experience success and praise every day

**To help children by ensuring that they are challenged and supported, we will:**

- Inform parents about the curriculum they are experiencing
- Use target setting information and other assessment procedures to track their progress and identify their learning needs
- Use a range of resources appropriate to the children's needs and interests
- Communicate regularly with parents and carers about their progress;
- Communicate to children's families that we value their contribution;
- Set home learning challenges to engage parents in children's learning
- Look for opportunities to catch them doing well and to celebrate it

**To ensure that children are interested, curious and motivated learners, we will:**

- Ensure that we include high quality stimuli to promote interest and curiosity
- Encourage all staff to be enthusiastic and curious
- Provide opportunities for them to apply their learning in practical contexts
- Display their work and help them to display their own work attractively;
- Give them opportunities to discuss their learning
- Talk to them about their own lives, interests and cultural background
- Ensure that a range of learning and teaching styles are used in lessons
- Use children as 'experts'
- Draw on the resources in the local community to enrich learning

**To help children develop characteristics of effective learning (COEL) and high levels of engagement, we will**

- Model COEL and high levels of involvement ourselves and we will encourage all school employees to be active, lifelong learners, who share their interest in learning with colleagues and children

- Encourage parents to become involved in their children's learning and development both in and out of school
- Plan provision adapted to meet the needs and interests of individual children
- Give children opportunities to ask and answer questions
- Show respect for them and their contributions
- Involve them in collaborative working

**To support children's access to high quality, well-paced experiences we will:**

- Implement the 'Crossens Nursery School principles for effective teaching and learning' (see next section of the policy)
- Provide teachers and teaching assistants with day-to-day, line management support and appropriate continuous professional development
- Fully implement the SEND policies and action plans.
- Monitor the effectiveness of our teaching through line management arrangements, including lesson observations

**To ensure that the learning environment is stimulating and well resourced, we will:**

- Ensure that the Nursery is tidy and free of clutter;
- Have appropriate resources according to the varying needs and interests of the children;
- Ensure that resources are accessible to children;
- Vary the learning environment, using outdoor spaces and educational visits
- Set out informative, interactive and celebratory displays.

**CROSSENS NURSERY SCHOOL PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE TEACHING FOR LEARNING**

Everyone at Crossens Nursery is committed to ensuring that learning and progress are the priority. As a staff team we are committed to ensuring children engage in a balance of **adult led, adult initiated and child initiated activity**. We have identified some key features of Adult focused activities that secure good learning.

- Effective teaching
- A well-planned and resourced 'environment'
- Effective independent learning
- Effective review and reflection

**INTERVENTION/ SUPPORT GROUPS**

As a result of our regular assessment, we plan interventions that will support children and will move them on in their learning. Every term, our Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator will liaise with Nursery teachers and practitioners to identify children that would benefit from additional support in identified areas and strands of learning. Staff will plan interventions and enhancement to accelerate the progress of these children. We know the impact that we expect these interventions to have and we evaluate them with regard to the difference they have made to pupils' attainment. Our daily practice and support groups are also informed by WELCOM assessments and the professional dialogue that our staff share in meetings.

**FEEDBACK**

The purpose of feedback is to support and improve learning and development reinforcing and motivating children to develop desirable learning behaviours. We give ongoing oral feedback to individuals and to groups of children throughout the day. Our feedback focuses on the positive attributes we have observed. It is sharply focused on the learning and aptitudes that we want to improve and with an emphasis on developing characteristics of effective learning.

**HOME LEARNING**

We recognise the importance of children learning at home. We believe it helps them to consolidate and extend school learning as well as helping to involve families. We host Information sessions for

parents each term and we also share monthly newsletters, outlining the learning focus and including a few tips to share at home.

We encourage parents to celebrate children's significant achievements through the 'WOW' Certificates and we welcome photographs and feedback of special family events and learning experiences.

Please see our 'Crossens Curriculum' for further details and information about the learning journey of our children.

Review date: October 2026