

Yeadon Westfield Infant School
Teaching and Learning Policy 2017
Review 2020

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children, and expects our staff, governors and volunteers to share this commitment. This policy should be read in conjunction with all other school policies.

Learning and Teaching

Introduction

At Yeadon Westfield Infant 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 learning and teaching experiences help children to lead happy and rewarding lives. We believe that children learn best in different ways and that learning must be focused on individual pupils' needs and abilities. At our school we provide a rich and varied learning environment that allows children to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential. We believe in having high aspirations for our children and encourage them to reach for the stars.

Aims and objectives

Through our teaching we aim to:

- enable children to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners;
- foster children's self-esteem and help them build positive relationships with other people;
- ensure that children feel confident to make mistakes in order to learn
- develop children's self-respect and encourage children to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others;
- show respect for all cultures and, in so doing, to promote positive attitudes towards other people;
- enable children to understand their community and help them feel valued as part of this community;
- help children grow into reliable, independent and positive citizens.
- promote assessment for learning, making children partners in their learning

Yeadon Westfield Infant School
Teaching and Learning Policy 2017
Review 2020

- enrich the learning experience building learning skills across the curriculum
- make learning vivid and real, developing understanding through enquiry, creativity, e-learning and group problem solving
- to develop pride in the presentation of ideas whether verbal or written

Effective learning

We acknowledge that children learn in many different ways and we recognise the need to develop strategies that allow all children to learn in ways that best suit them.

We offer opportunities for children to learn in different ways. These include:

- investigation and problem solving;
- research and finding out;
- group work;
- pair work eg chatty partners
- independent work;
- whole-class work;
- asking and answering questions;
- use of the computer;
- fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest;
- creative activities;
- responding to visual, musical or recorded material;
- debates, role-plays and oral presentations;
- designing and making things;
- participation in physical activity.

We encourage children 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 makes it difficult for them to learn.

Effective teaching

When teaching we focus on motivating the children and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. We use the school curriculum policies to guide our teaching. This sets out the aims, objectives and values of the school.

Yeadon Westfield Infant School
Teaching and Learning Policy 2017
Review 2020

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 child's level of ability. When planning work for children with special educational needs we give due regard to information and targets contained in the children's Individual Education Plans (IEP's). We have high expectations of all children, and we aim to ensure that their work here at Yeadon Westfield Infant School is of the highest possible standard.

We set learning targets for the children which we share with parents. We regularly review progress and revise targets appropriately.

We plan our lessons with clear learning objectives. We take these objectives from the Foundation Curriculum/ National Curriculum. Our planning contains information about the tasks to be set and the way we assess the children's work. We evaluate all lessons so that we can modify and improve our teaching in the future.

Each of our teachers and support staff make a special effort to establish good working relationships with all children in the class. We treat the children with kindness and respect. We treat them fairly and give them equal opportunity to take part in class activities. All our staff follow the school policy with regard to discipline and classroom management. We set and agree with children the class code of conduct. We expect all children to comply with these rules that we jointly devise to promote the best learning opportunities for all. We praise children for their efforts and, by so doing, we help to build positive attitudes towards school and learning in general. We insist on good order and behaviour at all times. When children misbehave we follow the guidelines for sanctions as outlined in our school behaviour policy.

We ensure that all tasks and activities that the children do are safe. When we plan to take children out of school, we first inform parents and obtain their permission and carry out appropriate risk assessments.

We deploy learning assistants and other adult helpers as effectively as possible. Sometimes they work with individual children and sometimes they work with small groups. Our adult helpers also assist with the preparation and storage of classroom equipment.

Our classrooms are attractive learning environments. We change displays regularly, to ensure that the classroom reflects the topics studied by the children. We ensure that all children have the opportunity to display their

Yeadon Westfield Infant School
Teaching and Learning Policy 2017
Review 2020

best work at some time during the year. 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.

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 learning and teaching 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 learning and teaching policies through the school self-review processes. These include reports from subject leaders and the head teacher's report to governors.

The role of parents

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

- holding parents' evenings to explain our school strategies for teaching literacy, numeracy and other curricular subjects;
- sending information to parents at the start of each term in which we outline the topics that the children will be studying during that term at school;
- sending regular reports to parents in which we explain the progress made by each child and indicate how the child can improve further;

Yeadon Westfield Infant School
Teaching and Learning Policy 2017
Review 2020

- explaining to parents how they can support their children with shared learning.
- Use the website to support learning at home [there are various links and tools available

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 suitable clothing and P.E. 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.

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.