

St George's C. E. Primary School



Teaching & Learning Policy

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Approved by: Head Teacher

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Vision Statement

Jesus said: 'Love each other as I have loved you'. John 15:12

Our school motto, 'EVERYONE matters, EVERYONE achieves' is at the heart of everything we do and believe.

At St George's Primary School, we aim to prepare the children in our care to become well-rounded members of society on their journey through school life and beyond. We strongly believe that children learn best and can achieve their potential when they are happy and content. We endeavour to provide a safe learning environment with a warm, welcoming atmosphere which creates a sense of belonging amongst the children, the staff, the families and the community. We embrace their individuality and diversity, always encouraging respect and acceptance of each other regardless of race, religion or culture.

We have high expectations of the children and we work hard to support them to become the best that they can be. For our children to flourish, socially and academically, we aim to provide an outstanding education that is both challenging and inclusive. All children are encouraged to embrace the many opportunities and the support school provides, so that they become curious learners who are motivated and resilient with a 'Can do' attitude. Our aim is to provide the children of St George's with countless positive experiences, along with happy lifelong memories, from their time with us. We also have high expectations of attendance. We encourage families to be at school every day and to arrive on time in order to not miss any learning.

Through our supportive and inclusive Christian ethos, we are proud to foster our school values of kindness, respect, friendship, honesty, happiness, perseverance, forgiveness and responsibility, embedding these within everyday life at school. We believe that the emotional health and wellbeing of the whole school community is fundamental to the ongoing success of our school.

We aspire to make our school a place of excellence where we educate, nurture and value everyone; that ALL children will enjoy learning and achieve their potential in the 'St George's Way.'

'Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.' Mother Teresa.

At St. George's, our Teaching and Learning Policy is based on our school motto of 'EVERYONE matters, EVERYONE achieves' in a positive learning environment which leads to successful teaching and learning. The school vision underpins our whole school ethos where every child is challenged to reach their full potential, regardless of their academic ability. This policy will outline how St George's aims to provide:

- High-quality teaching which has a long-term positive effect on all pupils' life chances, particularly for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Teacher expectations which affect pupil outcomes; setting goals that challenge and stretch all pupils.
- Clear expectations which help communicate shared values that improve classroom and school culture.
- Effective teaching which transforms pupils' knowledge, capabilities and beliefs about learning.

Emotional Learning Environment

At St George's we believe that children learn best when they work in a supportive, positive environment. This is illustrated in the following way:

- All children's problems are issues for all staff to deal with in a positive manner.
- Staff use the principles of emotion coaching across school ensuring connection before correction through our relational approaches and practice.
- A safe and secure school where children are involved, consulted and valued.
- Children's security is enhanced by school and classroom routines.
- Children are welcomed into school each morning by happy, confident adults. This positive approach from adults needs to be maintained all day, every day.
- Children are rewarded for their efforts across the whole range of educational experiences in school.

- Support for children who find learning difficult is thorough and consistent. This includes children who, from time to time, need support to encourage positive behaviour.
- Children are taught and supported to be independent learners with learning skills that they will take forward in life.
- Teachers do not raise their voices, other than in extreme circumstances where the situation has been thought through first.
- Work in school can be described as 'low threat, high challenge'.
- Children are supported in having high expectations of themselves and others.
- Children are consistently supported in their relationships with other children and adults. This includes the school prioritising concerns about bullying.
- Children need to extend respect to all adults within the school community and have an expectation that they will receive respect in return.
- Children should be active learners with strong and persistent attitudes to learning.

Physical Learning Environment

Classrooms will be laid out to enhance children's sense of security and to maximise learning within the classroom. This is illustrated in the following ways:

- A welcoming classroom environment in which children can work independently and co-operatively.
- Appropriate resources, accessible to children across all curriculum areas to encourage independent learning.
- The school will be kept tidy and clean. Children, supported by class teachers, should take responsibility for personal areas such as drawers and lockers.
- School grounds should be kept tidy, safe and attractive.
- Where possible, displays should reflect all children's work and celebrate achievement.

Successful Teaching

At St George's, Quality First Teaching, which challenges all learners, is fundamental to the success of our school.

- All staff have high expectations of all learners in every lesson.
- All teaching is adaptive and appropriately planned, resourced and prepared.
- Objectives for learning are clear and match children's learning needs. These learning needs are subject to consistent and rigorous assessment. (See School Assessment Policy and Marking Policy)
- Each lesson will have a WALT (We Are Learning To) and a WILF (What I'm Looking For)
- In Key Stage 1, children are taught in classes and grouped for some activities. In Key Stage 2, children are taught in sets for Maths and English and taught in classes for all other curriculum areas.
- When purposeful to do so, teachers will explain how learning fits in the 'bigger picture' of a unit, subject, and overall curriculum to enhance children's access to learning.
- Teachers link vocabulary, concepts and 'St George's local threads' (identified and agreed by staff) across subject areas to consolidate and extend children's knowledge.
- The National Curriculum will be followed but with flexibility and creativity.
- The needs of individuals and groups are responded to by class teachers.
- To enable children to know more and remember more, there should be significant designated time for review and consolidation of learning.
- Regular opportunities are given to children to practise skills they have been taught.
- The school will consistently stay at the forefront of teaching research and development and incorporate successful approaches in teaching at St George's.

Successful Learning

Successful learning takes place where children are settled, secure and challenged. They are motivated and clear about what it is they are to learn and why. Our successful learning is illustrated in the following ways:

- Children work in a 'can do' environment in which the class teacher expects success and celebrates it openly.
- Knowledge and skills are taught and consistently referred to and celebrated alongside objectives achieved.
- Successful learning builds upon previous learning and spirals upwards from a common starting point.
- Teaching assistants play a key role in enhancing learning opportunities within the classroom.
- The pace of the lesson needs to be appropriate to the needs of the children in the lesson.
- Teachers consistently share with children what they have done well and where they go next in their learning.
- Children are encouraged to learn from their mistakes.
- Children are encouraged to 'have a go', even if the work they are doing is very challenging.

At St George's we feel very strongly that happy children make the most successful learners. As staff, we endeavour to ensure that our pupils have the best possible care, support, and education that we can provide.