

TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY

March 2025

INTRODUCTION

At Christ Church Cathedral School we understand and promote 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 experience for everyone: making progress and acquiring knowledge and skills is intrinsically worthwhile and enjoyable. Through our teaching we equip pupils 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

At Christ Church Cathedral School we provide a rich and varied learning environment that allows children to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential.

Through our teaching we aim to:

- (a) ignite curiosity about all aspects of the world;
- (b) develop in our pupils a thirst for knowledge, and pride in knowledge acquired;
- (c) enable children to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners;
- (d) develop in our pupils the ability to apply what they have learned in a wide variety of situations, while at school and throughout their lives;
- (e) foster pupils' self-esteem and help them build positive relationships with other people;
- (f) develop self-respect and encourage children to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others;
- (g) enable children to understand their role as part of various communities: the school, the family, the local area, the nation and the world;
- (h) help pupils grow into reliable, independent and positive citizens.

EFFECTIVE LEARNING

Pupils are offered opportunities to learn in different ways, including:

- direct teaching
- investigation and problem solving
- research
- group work
- pair work
- independent work
- whole-class work
- asking and answering questions
- use of ICT
- fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest
- creative activities
- watching videos and responding to musical or recorded material

- debates, role-plays and oral presentations
- designing and making things
- participation in musical, athletic or physical activity

We encourage children to take some 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

The focus is on motivating the children and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. Subject Schemes of Work guide our teaching.

- Teaching is based on our knowledge of the pupils' level of attainment, the prime focus being 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, differentiating as appropriate. We have high expectations of all children, and try to draw from them the best possible standard of work. Information on pupils with Special Educational Needs is made available to all teachers who take this into account in their planning.
- Lessons are planned with clear learning objectives. Evaluation of lessons is a constant on-going process: all teachers constantly looking for ways to modify and improve future teaching.
- Each of our teachers makes a special effort to establish good working relationships with all pupils. We treat the children with kindness and respect. We treat them fairly and give them equal opportunity to take part in class activities. All teachers follow the school's Behaviour Policy and manage the classroom with care. The way pupils are expected to behave in the classroom is carefully explained and discussed. We expect all children to comply with these expectations jointly devised 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.
- We do everything possible to ensure that all tasks and activities that the children do are safe. Risk assessments form a core element of planning for trips and activities off the school site.
- Teaching Assistants and other adult helpers are deployed as effectively as possible. Sometimes they work with individual children and sometimes they work with small groups, under the direction of the teacher responsible.
- Our classrooms are attractive learning environments. 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 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 are aided in this process by our system of appraisal which occurs on an annual basis.