



Teaching and Learning Policy

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Review Cycle:	Annual

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the principles, expectations, and approaches to teaching and learning at Blue Sky Independent School. It ensures a consistent, high-quality approach across the school that promotes:

- Academic excellence
- Personal development and wellbeing
- A love of learning
- Preparation for lifelong learning and responsible citizenship

2. Principles of Effective Teaching and Learning

At Blue Sky Independent School, we believe that effective teaching and learning should:

1. Be child-centred, recognising individual needs, interests, and abilities.
2. Promote high expectations, challenge, and ambition for all pupils.
3. Develop key knowledge, skills, and understanding across all areas of the curriculum.
4. Encourage critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving.
5. Foster independence, resilience, and self-reflection in learners.
6. Ensure inclusion and accessibility, meeting the needs of all pupils including those with SEND or EAL.
7. Be informed by assessment for learning, using data to plan and adapt lessons.
8. Provide a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment for learning.

3. Teaching Approaches

Teachers at Blue Sky Independent School are expected to:

- **Plan effectively:** Use the curriculum framework, assessment data, and pupil interests to design engaging lessons.
- **Differentiate learning:** Adapt teaching strategies and materials to meet the diverse needs of pupils.
- **Use active learning:** Incorporate discussion, collaboration, problem-solving, and hands-on activities.
- **Integrate technology effectively:** Use digital tools to enhance learning while maintaining safeguarding standards.
- **Encourage reflection:** Provide opportunities for pupils to evaluate their learning and set targets.
- **Promote literacy and numeracy across the curriculum:** Embed reading, writing, communication, and mathematical skills in all subjects.

4. Learning Environment

The classroom and wider school environment should:

- Be well-organised, safe, and stimulating.
- Display pupils' work and celebrate achievement.
- Provide clear learning objectives and success criteria.
- Encourage independence through accessible resources and clear routines.
- Foster respect, collaboration, and positive behaviour.

5. Assessment and Feedback

Assessment is integral to teaching and learning and should:

- Be continuous, using formative assessment to inform teaching.
- Include summative assessment to measure progress and attainment.
- Incorporate self-assessment and peer-assessment to develop pupils' evaluative skills.
- Ensure feedback is constructive, timely, and actionable in line with the school's Marking, Feedback and Assessment Policy.
- Use data to identify gaps, inform intervention, and celebrate progress.

6. Curriculum Implementation

- The curriculum is broad, balanced, and progressive, covering all statutory requirements and the independent school's ethos.
- Cross-curricular links are encouraged to provide meaningful learning experiences.
- Enrichment activities (clubs, trips, visits, performances) are embedded to enhance learning and personal development.
- Personal, social, health, and economic education (PSHE) and spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) development are integrated throughout.

7. Inclusion and SEND

- All teaching should be inclusive and differentiated to meet the needs of all pupils.
- Staff should work closely with the SENCo to support pupils with SEND.
- Reasonable adjustments and additional support should be provided to ensure equity of access.

8. Professional Expectations

Teachers are expected to:

- Maintain high professional standards, modelling lifelong learning.
- Engage in continuous professional development.
- Collaborate with colleagues to share good practice.
- Reflect on and evaluate their own teaching and adapt accordingly.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will monitor teaching and learning through:

- Lesson observations and learning walks
- Book and work scrutiny
- Pupil progress meetings
- Staff appraisal and CPD records
- Pupil and parent feedback

This ensures that standards are consistent, effective, and continually improving.

10. Links with Other Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Curriculum Policy
- Marking, Feedback and Assessment Policy
- SEND Policy

- Relational Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Staff CPD Policy

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner in response to curriculum changes, inspection requirements, or best practice updates.