

# Braywood C. E. First School



*Aspire, Learn, Achieve*

## Teaching and Learning Policy

*"Primary Education is a critical stage in children's development; it shapes them for life. As well as giving them the essential tools for learning, primary education is about children experiencing the joy of discovery, solving problems, being creative, developing their self confidence as learners and maturing socially and emotionally. Excellence and enjoyment of learning is at the heart of this"*

*Primary National Strategies*

### Introduction

At Braywood we believe in the concept of lifelong learning and the notion 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 teaching and learning experiences help children to lead happy and rewarding lives.

*'From tiny acorns, mighty oak trees grow, watered and nurtured by God.'*

### Aims and objectives

We believe that people learn best in different ways. At our school we aim to 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:

- enable children to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners;
- foster children's self-esteem and help them build positive relationships with other people;
- 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.

### Effective learning

We acknowledge that people 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. Psychologists identify seven main areas of intelligence: linguistic, visual/spatial, logical/mathematical, kinaesthetic, musical, interpersonal/group working, and interpersonal/reflective. We take into account these different forms of intelligence when planning teaching and learning styles.

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

- investigation and problem solving; research and finding out;
- group work; pair work; independent work; whole-class work
- question work;
- use of the computer;
- fieldwork and visits to place of education interest;
- creative activities;
- watching television and responding to musical or tape-recorded material;
- debates, role-plays and oral presentations;
- designing and making things;
- and participation in athletic or 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.

### **Personalised Learning**

*"Put simply, personalised learning and teaching means taking a highly structured and responsive approach to each child's and young person's learning, in order that all are able to progress, achieve and participate. It means strengthening the link between learning and teaching by engaging pupils - and their parents - as partners in learning." Report from the DfE Teaching and Learning Review Panel*

At Braywood we have a reflective and adaptable curriculum where a variety of teaching methods and environments enable us to meet the needs of all our children. The International Primary Curriculum boasts a personalised agenda where children follow their own initiatives and encapsulates all the subjects under one topic umbrella.

We encourage children to take control of their learning through:

- robust assessment for learning procedures throughout the school
- effective teaching and learning practices
- a flexible curriculum entitlement and choice
- a creative use of our school organisation and
- a continuous mechanism to support the child outside the classroom

### **Our effective teaching and learning environment**

When teaching we focus on motivating the children and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding. We use the school curriculum plan to guide our teaching. This sets out the aims, objectives and details what is to be taught to each year group.

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 in order to remove any barriers to learning. When planning work for children with special educational needs we give due regard to information and targets contained in the children's individual learning plans (IEPs). We have high expectations of all children.

The children are aware of their learning progress and use targets to guide their next steps. These are constantly shared with their parents. We review the progress regularly through use of marking, maths and literacy booklets, I can statements, APP and peer assessment.

*(See Assessment for Learning Policy)*

We plan our lessons with clear learning objectives. We take these objectives from the National Curriculum. Our lesson plans contain information about the tasks to be set, the resources needed, 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.

All the teachers work hard to establish a good relationship with the children in their 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 teachers 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 doing, we help to build positive attitudes towards school and learning in general. (*See Behavioural for Learning 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.

We deploy classroom 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 and other areas reflect the topics studied by the children. We ensure that all children have the opportunity to display their best work at some time during the year. We believe that a stimulating environment sets the climate for learning, and an exciting classroom promotes high-quality work by the children. There are many opportunities to extend the children's learning outside the classroom and beyond school hours.

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 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 teaching and learning strategies are in terms of raising pupil attainment;
- ensure that staff development and performance management policies promote good quality teaching;
- monitor the effectiveness of school teaching and learning policies through the self-review processes. These include reports from subject co-ordinators and the annual Headteacher's report to governors as well as a review of the in-service training sessions attended by our staff.

### **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, curriculum evenings and class meetings to explain our school strategies for teaching literacy, numeracy and health education;
- 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;
- explaining to parents how they can support their children with homework. We suggest, for example, regular shared reading with very young children, and support for older children with their projects and investigation work.

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 the correct uniform and PE 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.

### **The role of the children**

We know that children's views are fundamental to the way they learn. At every opportunity:

- children are encouraged to reflect on their learning, how best they learn and what they need to do to achieve the next step.
- their views as to how we can improve the way we teach are regularly sought.
- their thoughts and opinions are reflected in our planning.
- they are reminded of the joy of learning and that this is just the start of a lifelong learning journey.

The children are taught that "they have a right to learn" and that they should take advantage of that right and ensure that they do not deprive any other child of that right.

### **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. This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and every three years by the full Governing Body.