



# HOLY FAMILY PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

## Learning and Teaching Policy Nursery Specific

### **Policy rationale and aims**

In order to build upon the learning that has taken place at home it is necessary to provide children with a rich variety of challenging play activities and other experiences in a stimulating environment. The focus is to allow children to learn at their own pace, gain a positive image of themselves as learners, be able to cope with uncertainty and to learn through trial and error.

### **Definition**

By learning and teaching in the nursery we mean the skills, knowledge, values and attitudes children need to be active, enthusiastic, life long learners and the agreed approaches and strategies adopted by staff to facilitate, support and extend that learning.

### **Aims of the policy**

Through this policy we aim to:

- Establish and build upon the prior learning that our nursery pupils have encountered.
- Provide for the varying and changing needs of each child.
- Ensure equality of opportunity.
- Ensure each child experiences challenge and success.
- Promote their physical, social, emotional, creative and intellectual development and ensure they feel included, secure and valued.
- Provide a curriculum that is enjoyable and motivates, challenges and stimulates by building on a child's natural curiosity.
- Provide a safe and stimulating supervised environment.
- Provide appropriate periods of time for learning through sustained involvement in play.

### **Policy Implementation**

In order to promote good practice and maximise teaching and learning opportunities, nursery staff will:

- Give priority to settling children happily into nursery.
- Plan what and how children should learn.
- Observe and interact with the children in a variety of situations.
- Assess the progress children are making in each area of learning.
- Use observations and assessments to inform planning.
- Invite parents and children to contribute to assessment.
- Report progress to parents formally and informally.
- Share relevant information with the primary one teachers.
- Reflect on and evaluate practice.
- Offer sensitive support and timely involvement in children's play.
- Stimulate/deepen the learning experiences of all pupils.
- Engage fully in the PRSD process on an annual basis.



## **The Learning Environment**

Nursery staff aim to provide a rich and stimulating environment which will promote effective learning. They will work together to create learning environments both indoors and outdoors which allow children to choose from a range of activities in safe, secure, defined areas. Children's work will be displayed both by staff and the children themselves with captions, where appropriate, to explain the context of the work.

We recognise the importance of outdoor learning and aim to provide opportunities for frequent, safe, varied and stimulating activities outdoors eg physical and quiet activities; opportunities to explore the natural environment, have access to information books, stories and rhymes; experience/create music writing and drawing; imaginative play and construction on a large scale.

Staff will take account of health and safety requirements, children with Special Educational Needs, very young children and the range of planned experiences to be provided when organising space, materials and equipment.

The nursery day will be organised to allow children to become purposefully involved in their play both indoors and outdoors. Routines such as snack time will be incorporated into the day in an unobtrusive and efficient manner to avoid children having to wait or interrupt their play unnecessarily. Arrival and departure times will allow children to settle and leave with ease and facilitate informal contact with parents.

The learning environment will be monitored and assessed by staff on a daily basis to:

- Make the best possible use of space, equipment and time
- Determine how activities might be changed, adapted or extended to improve learning or meet the needs of individual children more effectively
- Review the role of staff as they support the children during play
- Ascertain what has been successful and whether the expected learning has taken place
- Ensure children's self-confidence, self esteem and independence are developed

## **Time Requirements**

Time will be allocated each week to allow the nursery team to consider their observations, resource provision and identify future action which will improve the quality of learning and teaching.

## **Staff Development**

In order to ensure the effective implementation of this policy, nursery staff will have access to an appropriate development programme which will facilitate the delivery of high quality learning and teaching. The priorities for staff development will be identified in the school development plan.

## **Review**

This policy will be monitored annually. Responsibility for the review of the policy rests with the nursery co-ordinator and the FS/KS1 vice principal. The next review date will be completed in June 2012.