

# Stoneydelph Primary School



## Learning and Teaching Policy

**Written by:** E. Parsons

**Date:** April 2024

**Date for review:** May 2026

**Approved by  
governors:** May 2026

# Learning & Teaching Policy & Practice

## 1. Introduction

*This policy should be read in conjunction with the Stoneydelph Primary School Curriculum Policy and the Early Years Policy.*

This policy details how Stoneydelph Primary School delivers high quality learning outcomes that reflect the context of the school, its community and the values of the Community Academies Trust (CAT). We are committed to achieving the highest possible outcomes for our pupils. This policy details how our vision for the development of confident, happy, engaged and self-motivated learners who enjoy learning is achieved through learning and teaching.

We believe in 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 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.

### **Statement of Intent:**

Stoneydelph Primary School continually refines its pedagogical approach to teaching and learning. The school has built upon a thematic learning model to create a bespoke and personalised approach which we firmly believe creates the best conditions for our learners to thrive and achieve.

This approach to teaching and learning, in combination with our curriculum development, are the two strands that have been embedded throughout all aspects of school to ensure that all our learners fulfil their potential. The school is aware that there is no one method or simple approach that holds the key to successful learning; children need to be equipped with a range of strategies to tackle the challenges they face. The school believes that children should be given responsibility for their own learning, and aims to create independent, resilient and self-motivated pupils, who are well equipped with the skills they need to meet the challenges of an ever-changing society. Our policy also reflects the CAT's vision for *Ensuring Excellence*.

## **Aims and objectives**

We believe that people learn best in different ways. At our 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:

- enable children to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners;
- enable pupils to build on prior learning and make new connections;
- ensure that pupils have time to *demonstrate* and *consolidate* their learning outcomes;
- 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, help them feel valued as part of it

## **2. Procedures and Practice**

### **Equal Opportunities**

We believe it is the right of all children, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, physical ability, linguistic, cultural or home background, to have access to quality learning experiences across all areas of the curriculum in a safe, secure and supportive environment that promotes high levels of achievement and personal wellbeing.

We recognise that adults may have preconceived expectations of children's behaviour, and are committed to challenging discrimination and stereotypes. Therefore, we will ensure that our Behaviour Policy is communicated to, and can be accessed by, the whole school community. We encourage everyone in our school community to understand and follow the Behaviour Policy.

We recognise that children's behaviour can be variable and can be affected by different situations and their emotional needs. At Stoneydelph Primary School we feel it is important that the whole school has a consistent approach to promoting positive behaviour with clear expectations so that learning is not affected by negative behaviour.

### **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. We take into account learning styles, levels of questioning and supportive mechanisms to enable effective learning.

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;

- asking and answering questions;
- use of computers, iPads and other technology;
- fieldwork, visits to places of educational interest and engaging with visitors;
- creative activities;
- participating in, listening and responding to musical or recorded material;
- debates, role-plays and oral presentations;
- designing and making things;
- participation in athletic or physical activity;
- outdoor learning.

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. We ensure that, whenever possible, active and collaborative approaches to learning are considered.

### **Effective Teaching**

When teaching we focus on motivating the children and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. We use the school curriculum plan to guide our teaching. This sets out the aims, objectives and values of the school 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. We co-construct a set of success criteria to ensure the pitch and challenge of every lesson is at the correct level; to promote the very highest standards. When planning work for children with special educational needs we give due regard to information and targets contained in the children's EHCPs. We have high expectations of all children, and we believe that their work here at Stoneydelph Primary School is of the highest possible standard.

### **Adapted Curriculum**

Pupils who find it difficult to access the curriculum due to individual needs have access to a personalised curriculum and resources through consultation with the class teacher, SENDCo and other relevant agencies. Teachers plan carefully to meet the needs of pupils with SEND and communicate this to teaching assistants through planning documents and timetables which are shared in advance of the lessons. Teaching assistants deliver support to pupils who require additional help in lessons and through interventions under the direction of classteacher and SENDCo.

We plan our lessons with clear learning objectives from the National Curriculum. Our plans contain information about the vocabulary to be used, 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 members of staff establish good working relationships with the children. We treat the children with kindness and respect. We treat them fairly and give them equal opportunity to take part in activities. All our teachers follow the school policy with regard to discipline and classroom management. We discuss and agree with children a class code of conduct. We expect all children to comply with these rules that are 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. If children misbehave we follow the guidelines for sanctions as outlined in our school behaviour policy.

We ensure that all children and adults consider risk in the activities they undertake, ensuring measures are in place to minimise risks and there is an awareness for their own and each other's safety.

We deploy teaching assistants and other adult helpers effectively to secure maximum impact on the children's learning. Sometimes they support the whole class and sometimes they work with individual children and small groups.

Our classrooms are stimulating and attractive learning environments. Displays model, support and celebrate learning. They are changed regularly taking into account current learning and the topics studied by the children and always include maths and English working walls. We ensure that all children have the opportunity to display their best work during the year or celebrate it in Achievement Assemblies. All classrooms have access to a range of fiction and non-fiction books. We encourage 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. This is managed within the ongoing process of 'Growing Great People' working in coaching partnerships. 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 the 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, training and performance management policies promote good quality teaching;
- monitor the effectiveness of the school's learning and teaching policies through the school self-review processes. These include reports from subject leaders and the 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 employ a range of strategies to communicate with parents about their children's learning by:

- curriculum meetings or providing appropriate materials to explain our school strategies for teaching;
- sending information to parents at the start of each term/half term in which we outline the topics that the children will be studying during that term at school;
- sending annual written 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 home learning through

curriculum meetings, parents' meetings and regular home-learning letters. We suggest, for example, regular shared reading with children, and support for older children with their projects and investigative work.

- talking with parents at parents' evenings and sharing the children's work during these sessions. 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 (target 96%);
- 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;
- attend Parents' Evenings appointments, meetings and events such as assemblies and performances;
- provide feedback at parents' evenings and on annual reports;
- promote a positive attitude towards school and learning in general.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation 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.

### **Other Relevant Policies and linked documentation includes:**

1. Subject specific Learning Intents and Skills & Knowledge Progression Grids
2. The Curriculum Policy
3. Feedback Policy
4. Equal opportunities Policy
5. SEN and Inclusion Policy
6. E-Safety Policy
7. PSHE and Policy
8. The Early Years Policy
9. The Behaviour Policy