



Newton Leys
Primary School & Nursery

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Teaching & Learning Policy

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Committee responsible	Teaching & Learning

1.0 Introduction

At Newton Leys Primary School & Nursery we believe in the concept of lifelong learning, and in 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; in short, 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.

2.0 Aims

All staff have a shared understanding of what constitutes high quality teaching and learning, how quality teaching and learning contributes to school improvement, raising children's level of attainment and increasing rates of progress. How continuous monitoring, evaluation and professional dialogue in relation to teaching and learning is crucial to the development and subsequent improvement of our own practice.

The aims of our school curriculum are:

- To teach children within a culture of high expectation and challenge enabling the child to achieve their best
- To teach them to be good choosers, skillful problem solvers and powerful learners
- To give them the confidence to question and to search for answers
- To understand that without mistakes we don't learn and so encourage them to take risks
- To build the skills, knowledge and understanding required for making sense of the world around them
- To learn to work collaboratively as well as independently
- To be caring and respectful of those around them
- To help them to recognise that learning is lifelong

But most importantly to enjoy learning.

3.0 Effective teaching

At Newton Leys we believe that effective teaching:

- connects the learning with previous work;
- gives learners the 'big picture' of the whole lesson;
- explains the learning objectives, and the purpose of the lesson offering challenge
- discusses how the children can achieve through sharing the tool kit
- presents the information in a range of styles;
- allows opportunities for the pupils to build up their own understanding through a range of differentiated activities that match the individual needs including the use of IT and high levels of interaction within the class;
- encourages independent learning;
- reviews what has been learnt to increase recollection;
- provides feedback, celebrating success and reviewing learning strategies;
- demands robust target setting and monitoring of each child's progress and their next steps
- has a consistent approach to behaviour management
- provides opportunities for consolidation of learning and excitement over the introduction of new topics through home learning.

The needs and abilities of all pupils are taken into account by ensuring Quality First teaching takes place in all lessons.

4.0 Successful learning

At Newton Leys Primary School & Nursery children are clear of their role in being successful in learning and:

- take an active role during lessons by participating and collaborating
- use learning in one area to support learning in another
- explain, reason and demonstrate their understanding

We aim to maximise every learner's potential by:

- communicating the high expectations we have for our pupils to the pupils and parents, involving parents in the learning process
- encouraging values such as self-confidence building self-esteem and resilience
- communicating to pupils our belief in them through positive language and setting challenging tasks for them
- taking every opportunity to celebrate each pupil's successes and achievements

5.0 Context of the Curriculum

5.1 Early Years Curriculum

In our Early Years we encourage each child to take up the opportunities which we provide in the seven defined curriculum areas. The prime areas of learning are: communication and language, physical development, personal, social and emotional development. The specific areas of learning are: literacy, mathematics, understanding the world, expressive arts and design. Children will have the opportunity to access all learning both inside and outside with constant adult supervision.

There are 17 early learning goals and assessment criteria. For each goal, teachers determine whether children are meeting expected levels, are exceeding them, or are below the expected level ('emerging'). Children will be tracked against these criteria throughout Early Years.

5.2 Key Stage 1 & 2

The National Curriculum forms the basis of our curriculum; however, the school's cross curricular and creative approach allows teaching staff to plan and develop the required content taking into consideration the children's interests and the locality in which they live where appropriate. A curriculum information booklet is sent home each term informing on the areas of study in each subject. Curriculum statements for each subject area are stated in Appendix 1.

Teachers determine whether children are meeting expected levels, are exceeding them, or are below the expected level ('working towards') for their year group.

6.0 Facilitating pupils' learning

Learning environment

Children are encouraged to take ownership of their learning environment, and displays throughout the school celebrate the children's achievements, inform them and introduce them to new learning.

7.0 Homework

Aims & Objectives of Homework:

- To encourage pupils to develop the practice of independent study
- To develop perseverance, self-discipline and organisation
- To involve parents and other adults in pupils' work
- To allow practice where it is needed of skills learned in the classroom
- To consolidate and revise previously learnt knowledge
- To open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources of information that are not always accessible in the classroom
- To prepare for forthcoming lessons/topics.

Informal communication with your child's teacher can be written in their Reading Record, Homework Book or in a note. This is particularly important if your child has experienced difficulty understanding, or completing the Homework, without adult assistance. Guidance relating to Homework is found in the homework book.

8.0 Monitoring

Teaching and learning is monitored to differing degrees by all members of the teaching staff. The Headteacher has responsibility to ensure that the quality of teaching is both monitored and developed. This is done formally through lesson observations, and monitoring of planning and learning as part of the school's monitoring and evaluation cycle.

9.0 Assessment

At Newton Leys Primary School & Nursery we use both formative (ongoing) and summative (end of unit) assessment. Pupils' learning is assessed against identified National Curriculum objectives in a variety of ways, including their associated learning skills, across the range of subjects throughout the school year. Achievement is reported to parents in short termly reports (autumn and spring term) and more in depth annual reports. Please see the school's Assessment policy for further details.

10.0 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' information evenings to explain our school strategies for literacy and numeracy;
- by sending information to parents, at the start of each term, which outlines the topics that the children will be studying during that term at school;
- by sending parents regular reports in which we explain the progress made by each child and their attitude to learning;
- by providing opportunities for parents to 'learn alongside' their child

Review Frequency

This policy will be reviewed in the

Teaching & Learning Subject Statements

The Teaching and Learning statements included in this document provide an overview of what is taught throughout the school. It needs to be read in conjunction with the Teaching and Learning policy. Specific topics or areas of learning for individual year groups within each subject area can be found within 'Curriculum - Whole School Information' on the website. **More detailed information about teaching in the Early Years can be found in a separate document.**

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7. Art and Design
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10. PSHE
11. Music
12. PE

The KS1 Reading and Phonics scheme

Reading is taught through systematic synthetic phonics and the school is following the Letters and Sounds phonics scheme supported by **ReadWriteInc scheme**. These schemes are introduced in the Nursery and then continue to be used throughout Reception and Year 1. Children are streamed by ability and assessed at regular intervals to ensure that they are placed in the correct groupings. Children in Year 1 have weekly guided reading sessions where the children are given the opportunity to apply the phonics skills they have been taught. Reading books are sent home for children and parents to enjoy.

KS1 & KS2 English

All staff at Newton Leys Primary School & Nursery are committed to developing English skills through uniting the important skills of reading and writing. The children have the opportunity to select from a wide range of good quality reading books, school library books and enjoy their own class 'libraries'.

The development of reading and writing skills is an important focus for the school and children's progress in reading and writing is carefully monitored. A variety of opportunities are provided across the curriculum for children to develop their writing skills both in discrete daily English lessons one focussing on skills and the second on genre, as well as planned opportunities in other subject areas.

To help children progress in their learning and understand what they need to do to improve, the teachers set challenging individual and whole class writing targets for all pupils.

Children are provided with regular opportunities to develop the essential skills of speaking and listening. This is done through discussion, drama and specific listening activities in

pairs, groups and as a class. Good oral work enhances pupils' understanding of language in both oral and written forms.

Maths

Mathematics is a tool for everyday life and at Newton Leys Primary School & Nursery we aim to give the children the ability to solve problems, to reason, to think logically and to work systematically and accurately both independently and in cooperation with others.

The teaching of Mathematics in the Foundation Stage is based on the objectives stated within the E.Y.F.S curriculum.

From Year 1 to Year 6 mathematics is taught on a regular basis as a discrete subject but opportunities to use mathematics in other subject areas are planned for. Lessons are planned using a common format across the school and are based on the National Curriculum 2014 Programme of Study. This document outlines what is required to be taught within each year group within the different areas of Maths.

The school's Calculation policy provides a guide to how calculations using the four rules of number should be taught progressively throughout the school.

The lessons include a mixture of individual, group and whole class discussions and activities. Through careful planning and preparation, we aim to ensure that throughout the school children are given opportunities for practical activities and mathematical games; problems solving; open ended and closed tasks; and a range of methods, including mental, paper and pencil. Links will also be made to Mathematics within other subject areas so that pupils can develop and apply their mathematical skills.

Science

A high-quality science education provides the foundations for understanding the world through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. Science has changed our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity, and all pupils should be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. Through building up a body of key foundational knowledge and concepts, pupils should be encouraged to recognise the power of rational explanation and develop a sense of excitement and curiosity about natural phenomena. They should be encouraged to understand how science can be used to explain what is occurring, predict how things will behave, and analyse causes.

The national curriculum for science aims to ensure that all pupils:

- ✓ develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics
- ✓ develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science through different types of science enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them
- ✓ are equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future.

Scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding: The programmes of study describe a sequence of knowledge and concepts. While it is important that pupils make progress, it is

also important that they develop secure understanding of each key block of knowledge and concepts in order to progress to the next stage.

Pupils should be able to describe associated processes and key characteristics in common language, but they should also be familiar with, and use, technical terminology accurately and precisely. They should build up an extended specialist vocabulary. They should also apply their mathematical knowledge to their understanding of science, including collecting, presenting and analysing data.

The nature, processes and methods of science: 'Working scientifically' specifies the understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science for each year group. It should not be taught as a separate strand but embedded within the content of biology, chemistry and physics, focusing on the key features of scientific enquiry, so that pupils learn to use a variety of approaches to answer relevant scientific questions. These types of scientific enquiry should include: observing over time; pattern seeking; identifying, classifying and grouping; comparative and fair testing (controlled investigations); and researching using secondary sources. Pupils should seek answers to questions through collecting, analysing and presenting data.

ICT/Computing

We recognise the important of ICT and Computing as a lifelong learning tool at Newton Leys Primary School & Nursery and recognition of the value of ICT in all learning is key to our approach. ICT/Computing is taught in a variety of ways; where necessary, specific ICT skills are taught in discrete ICT lessons, however, ICT teaching also takes place using a cross-curricular approach. This allows children to transfer ICT skills and use technology for a real purpose.

History

The purposes and aims of the programme of study includes enquiring, questioning, interrogating, organising and communicating, important historical skills. Knowledge and understanding are at the centre of the curriculum and focusses on the importance of chronological understanding, coherent knowledge and placing the pupils' growing historical understanding into different contexts.

The historical aims are to: 1. Inspire pupils' curiosity to know about the past. 2. To equip pupils' to ask perceptive questions, critically think, weigh evidence, sift arguments and develop perspective and judgement. 3. To help pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups.

Geography

Geography teaches an understanding of places and environments. Children have the opportunity to explore the local area using fieldwork and compass skills; they will consider how their lives compare with that in other regions of the United Kingdom and in the rest of the world. Key geographical knowledge will be developed, with a focus on learning the continents, five oceans and capital cities. They learn how to draw and interpret maps and they develop the skills of research, investigation, analysis and problem-solving. Through their growing knowledge and understanding of human geography, children gain an appreciation of life in other cultures. Geography teaching also motivates children to find out about the physical world around them; it enables them to recognise the importance of sustainable development for the future of mankind.

DT

In Design and Technology, children are encouraged to explore and try out different materials, tools and processes of making. They are encouraged to ask questions, predict

results and reflect on their learning. At Newton Leys Primary School & Nursery DT is embedded in a topic-based approach where relevant objectives and skills are taught. Children have access to a range of resources and we ensure health and safety procedures are strictly adhered to. All children have the opportunity to cook and explore food which is supported through healthy eating principles in PSHE and the science curriculum.

Art

Art for most children is a natural form of expression and a source of great pleasure that can enhance lives and cultural awareness. We aim to increase confidence and competence in the use of different media, such as pencil, charcoal, paint, collage, inks, textiles and clay. Art teaching is embedded in other subjects, as well as taught discreetly to ensure progression. Discussions of art by other artists are a regular practice within other subjects i.e. Geography, to enhance pupil understanding and promote diversity. The enjoyment of making, creating, building and adapting starts at a young age and continues to be built upon year on year, inclusive of all genders, ethnicities and beliefs. We promote the necessary skills for our children to develop their natural ability to be expressive and creative and we aim to instill pride by achieving finished work that is of a high standard. Above all, art at Newton Leys Primary School & Nursery is fun, engaging and enlightening as well as informative, structured and progressive.

MFL

Modern foreign language is a statutory part of the national curriculum at KS2. At Newton Leys Primary School & Nursery Spanish is taught in KS2.

Year 3 and 4 have a weekly session of 30 minutes.

Although MFL is not statutory at FS and KS1, we are implementing short sessions in which children learn through songs and games. During these sessions children acquire basic vocabulary and language learning skills that will set the foundation in which children can build further language learning at KS2.

Music

At Newton Leys Primary School & Nursery we want our music provision to promote enjoyment, participation and response to all aspects of music. We hope to build confidence through encouraging performances to different audiences and to promote an appreciation and understanding of music as a means of communication. Lessons will explore various feelings and moods evoked by music and consider the use of different instruments in order to create these.

Children will be taught to:

- ❖ Control sounds through singing and playing – performing skills
- ❖ Create and develop musical ideas – composing skills
- ❖ Respond and review – evaluating pieces of music
- ❖ Listen and apply knowledge and understanding

In Foundation Stage, these outcomes are achieved through the EYFS area of study: 'Expressive Art and Design'.

In Key Stage 1, pupils are taught to listen carefully and respond to a wide range of music. They play musical instruments and learn and sing a variety of songs from memory. They explore and enjoy how sounds and silence can create different moods and effects.

In Key Stage 2, pupils sing songs and play instruments with increasing confidence, skill and expression. They improvise and develop their own compositions. They respond to a variety of music from different times and cultures.

PSHE

At Newton Leys Primary School & Nursery, the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum is covered over seven themes and is re-visited by each Year Group (from Year 1 to Year 6). British Values are embedded throughout daily school life.

The themes covered are:

New Beginnings

Going for Goals

Relationships

Good to be Me (incl Drugs in KS2)

Getting on & Falling Out

Say No to Bullying

Changes

Nursery and Reception class follow the EYFS outcomes (statutory framework).

This PSHE programme helps give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy and independent lives. The pupils take part in a range of activities enabling them to work with others and recognise their own worth. They reflect on experiences and tackle many moral and social issues we see in school life. The pupils learn to understand and respect diversity and differences enabling them to form effective relationships with others.

RE

At Newton Leys Primary School & Nursery, children are taught Religious Education following the published, locally agreed syllabus set by the Milton Keynes Local Authority. The purpose of RE is to support pupils in their own coherent patterns of values and principles, and to support their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The aims of the Programme of Study is to learn about religion and learn from religion.

RE lessons at Newton Leys Primary School & Nursery teach children about different world beliefs and encourage them to apply their own thinking to the new things that they learn. Children are also taught how to discuss debate and disagree in a respectful way. They explore some of the big questions about life, as well as exploring religious artefacts, festivals and rituals. The teaching of RE is enhanced by visits to religious buildings, visits from different community members and the celebration of different faiths in assemblies and parties.

If parents wish to clarify any of the educational objectives and/or the content of the RE syllabus, please do not hesitate to contact their child's class teacher. In this way, parents can make an informed decision about their child's participation in the lessons. Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons and assemblies, but all withdrawal requests must be put in writing to the head teacher. It is hoped that parents and teachers will feel comfortable with the nature and areas of learning found in this syllabus and that, as a consequence, few will feel the need to withdraw either their children or themselves from the subject.

PE

At Newton Leys Primary School & Nursery, children are encouraged to lead healthy and active lives and to participate in a broad range of physical activities. Although we aim to engage children in competitive sports and activities as much as we can, the focus is primarily on teamwork and the fun aspect of being physically active for sustained periods of time.

In KS1, we encourage children to master basic movements such as running, jumping, throwing and catching. KS1 children are also given opportunities to participate in team

games and to apply basic movements in a range of activities both indoors and outdoors. We allow children to develop balance, agility and coordination and to perform dances using simple movement patterns.

In KS2, children are taught to use running, jumping, throwing and catching to play competitive games and to apply basic principles suitable for attacking and defending. Children continue to develop flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance through activities such as athletics and gymnastics. They perform dances using a range of movement patterns and compare their performances with previous ones to demonstrate improvement. In KS2, children have opportunities to learn how to swim competently and, in upper KS2, they can take part in outdoor and adventurous activities.