

Castleton&Glaisdale Federation

Teaching and Learning Policy March 2015

Good teaching and learning are at the heart of an effective school. At Castleton School we value all learning experiences that enable children to acquire new knowledge and develop new skills. We strive to improve the quality of our teaching to ensure that children's individual learning needs are met and that they have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Aims

- To promote the progress of all pupils
- To continuously develop our understanding of what makes effective teaching and learning
- To regularly evaluate the effectiveness of teaching and learning within the school
- To support continuous professional development for all staff
- To share good practice

Effective Teaching and Learning

Teaching is most effective when teachers:

- Demonstrate good subject knowledge
- Demonstrate competency in teaching skills
- Challenge and motivate pupils
- Give encouragement for effort as well as for achievement
- Use a variety of teaching styles which enable all pupils to learn effectively
- Ask challenging questions that develop higher order thinking skills
- Manage pupils well and expect high standards of behaviour
- Assess pupils' work regularly and give them feedback which enables them to make progress
- Use assessment evidence to determine future planning
- Use home/school liaison to reinforce and/or develop what has been learned at school
- Manage the skills and expertise of Teaching Assistants to support learning.

Learning is most effective when learners:

- Are given new knowledge, concepts and skills which are appropriately challenging
- Have the opportunity to consolidate their learning
- Are continuously developing their understanding
- Are motivated to work to the best of their abilities
- Show an interest in their work and maintain concentration
- Develop independent learning strategies
- Use newly acquired skills and concepts in different situations
- Understand what they are doing, how well they have done and how they can improve
- Make good progress

Evaluating Effectiveness

Teaching is evaluated in terms of its impact on children's learning and learning is evaluated as effective when it enables all pupils to make good progress.

Evaluation takes place through:-

- Classroom observation (see observation checklist)
- Work scrutiny
- Assessment records
- Forward planning
- Pupil interviews
- Staff discussion
- Parent consultations
- Data analysis

All evaluation will be monitored by the Education Development Advisor (EDA)

Improvements

Information gathered through the school's evaluation processes will be used to improve the school by:

- Sharing good practice
- Securing continuous professional development in the light of the needs of staff and the school
- Giving staff regular feedback on their performance
- Informing the school's strategic plan for improvement
- Influencing performance management

Review of this policy is included in the school's three-year rolling programme of policy review.

Review March 2018