

Sperrinview Special School

Learning and Teaching Policy

Introduction

In Sperrinview, learning and teaching is at the heart of everything we do. We strive to create an environment where each individual is valued for his/her unique contribution.

Aims:

- to work together in our school community in a sensitive and responsible way
- to create a happy, secure, stimulating and safe environment which enables everyone to develop as an individual in all aspects of life
- to promote the best possible quality of education for each individual
- to encourage pupils to be caring, self-confident, have healthy lifestyles and be as independent as possible in all aspects of life

Objectives:

We will provide opportunities which:

- make learning stimulating and meaningful
- take account of individual pupils' learning styles and what motivates them
- ensure that each pupil is offered the opportunity to develop socially, emotionally, culturally, physically, spiritually and academically
- build on what pupils already know
- assess readiness for learning
- allow pupils to be involved in their learning
- make learning enjoyable and challenging through a variety of teaching techniques
- develop thinking skills and personal capabilities

Principles of Teaching and Learning

At Sperrinview School, pupils' learning

- is creative and stimulating
- is fun, challenging and inclusive
- promotes independence and self-confidence
- extends knowledge, skills and understanding
- promotes reflection and evaluation
- includes different learning styles
- ensures that expectations are shared and understood
- makes full use of opportunities offered by ICT and new technologies

We will always:

- ❖ provide a safe place for pupils to think, feel, communicate and experience
- ❖ provide pupils with stimulating lessons and an exciting learning environment
- ❖ give pupils a range of learning experiences
- ❖ provide opportunities to develop and enrich all intelligences
- ❖ give pupils the right to express opinions and contribute positively to school and community life

Organisation

Pupils are taught in classes which are divided by age, with a small number of exceptions. Each class has a teacher and at least two classroom assistants. Within each class, pupils may be taught in a combination of the following groupings:

- whole class
- small group
- individual
- independent

Planning

Teachers, in consultation with pupils, parents, support staff and other agencies provide the following plans:

- schemes of work for each subject are devised by subject leaders in consultation with other teachers
- topic webs once a term
- IEPs once a term
- planners each half term

Teaching Strategies

In order to ensure equality of access and effective matching of tasks to needs, teachers employ a variety of strategies:

- ❖ the involvement of subject leaders to ensure continuity and progression throughout the school
- ❖ observation
- ❖ discussion and questioning [where appropriate]
- ❖ previewing and reviewing work
- ❖ didactic teaching
- ❖ interactive teaching
- ❖ conferencing
- ❖ listening
- ❖ modeling
- ❖ brainstorming
- ❖ mind-mapping
- ❖ providing opportunities for reflection by pupils
- ❖ demonstrating high expectations
- ❖ providing opportunities for repetition and reinforcement
- ❖ providing encouragement, positive reinforcement and praise
- ❖ responding to individual need
- ❖ intervening as appropriate to encourage development
- ❖ provide all pupils with opportunities for success
- ❖ use a range of communication strategies - both verbal and non-verbal

- ❖ use a range of ICT and assistive technology as appropriate

Roles

All teachers have a responsibility in this area. The Principal has overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Learning and Teaching policy will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis through consultation with pupils, staff and parents.

Review

A sub-committee of the Board of Governors will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this policy as part of a timetabled, on-going process.

Signed: _____ Date: _____