



# Rossall

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

## Teaching & Learning

<b>SLT Lead:</b> Headmaster of Prep	<b>Date Reviewed:</b> September 2020
<b>Circulation:</b> Prep Staff	<b>Next Review:</b> September 2021
	<b>Date:</b> 6th September 2020

# Teaching and Learning Policy

## Introduction

At Rossall Preparatory School, we believe in the concept of life-long 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. Through our teaching we aim to equip our children with the concepts, skills, knowledge, attitudes and understanding necessary to make informed choices about the important things in their lives. We want our children to combine a rich and varied experience of life with a strong desire to learn and a deep seated sense of inquiry. We promote the fundamentally British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

## Aims and Objectives

We believe that people learn best in different ways. At Rossall Preparatory School, we provide a rich and varied learning environment that allows children to develop skills and abilities which will enable them to become lifelong learners.

Through our teaching, we aim to

- Enable all children to become confident, resourceful, resilient and independent learners.
- Foster children's self-esteem and help them build positive relationships with other people
- Develop children's self-respect and encourage them to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others
- Show respect for all cultures, and in doing so promote international mindedness in ourselves and others
- Enable children to understand their own communities and help them feel valued as part of the global community
- Offer a range and balance of teaching opportunities including individual, group and cooperative tasks

## Effective learning

We acknowledge that children learn in different ways and recognise the need to develop a range of strategies that meet their different learning styles.

Our bespoke, Rossall Preparatory curriculum encourages and inspires the children to develop their current level of understanding to a new and deeper level. We offer opportunities for pupils to learn in a variety of different ways.

These include:

- Exploring, wondering and questioning
- Experimenting and playing with possibilities
- Researching and seeking information
- Clarifying existing ideas and reappraising events
- Deepening understanding through application of a concept or rule
- Making and testing theories
- Making predictions and acting purposefully to see what happens
- Elaborating on solutions to problems
- individual/pair/group/whole class work;
- use of ICT and digital media
- fieldwork, educational visits to places of cultural, historical, scientific, geographical or religious interest;
- creative activities;
- debates, role-plays and oral presentations;
- designing and manufacturing objects;
- participation in athletic or physical activity.

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 what helps them learn best, as well as recognising what makes it difficult for them to learn.

### **Effective teaching**

When teaching, we focus on motivating the children and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding. We use the school curriculum policy to guide our teaching. This sets out the aims, objectives and values of the school and details what is to be taught in each year group.

We aim to base our teaching on each child's current level of attainment and prior knowledge. Our prime focus is to further develop the concepts, knowledge and skills of the children and in doing so we strive to ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to the ability of the individual.

When planning work for children who require Learning Development, we work with the Head of Learning Development to ensure work is set at the appropriate level. If necessary, the Learning Development teacher will work with the child in a small group or on a one to one basis.

We have high expectations of all children and we believe that their work should be of the highest possible standard.

Lessons planned have clear learning objectives; we take these from the National Curriculum and the EYFS requirements. Our lesson plans contain information about tasks to be set, resources needed and how work is to be assessed.

We ensure all tasks and planned activities are safe, significant, relevant and challenging . If we plan to take children out of school, we first inform parents and obtain their permission.

Our classrooms are attractive and dynamic learning environments with subject displays which celebrate the work completed by our pupils and illustrate/reflect the topics that they are studying.

We conduct all of our teaching in an atmosphere of trust and respect for all. We celebrate difference and promote equality, regardless of age, sexuality, gender, disability or faith. Similarly, throughout the curriculum we implicitly and explicitly promote fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs

All teachers are encouraged to reflect on their performance and skills. They are given the opportunity to continue their professional development through attending CPD arranged by the Head of Teaching and Learning and AJIS.

### **The role of children**

The children are encouraged to take a full role in creating their learning environment where their opinion is welcomed and valued; the Student Council meets regularly. The pupils have the opportunity to reflect on their learning regularly in their lessons.

### **The role of parents**

We believe that parents have a fundamental role to play in helping their children to learn

We do all we can to inform them about what and how their children are learning by:

- Holding termly parents evenings to inform them of their child's progress.
- Sending information at the start of each term outlining what children will be covering in that half term.
- Sending regular reports in which we indicate progress made and indicate how their child can improve further through SMART target setting and effort and attainment grades.
- Giving information, for example, via Prep Diaries and Google Classroom how parents can support their child with homework
- We believe parents have the responsibility to support their children and school by implementing school policies and procedures as outlined in the Parents Handbook.

### **The expectations of pupils**

We expect pupils to:

- have the highest expectations of themselves in all aspects of School life;
- commit themselves to maintaining a positive work ethic and good behaviour
- engage in independent learning to develop and extend knowledge and understanding beyond the confines of the curriculum
- work effectively by themselves, in paired or in group work in order to achieve their targets;
- seek assistance when necessary;
- commit to co-curricular activities.

### **Monitoring and review**

We are aware of the need to review policies regularly in order to take account of new initiatives, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school.