

# Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Nursery

## Learning and Teaching Policy

### *Mission Statement*

*“You are precious in my eyes” - Isaiah 43*

- ◆ *Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Nursery is committed to the widest and fullest education of all pupils in a partnership between home, nursery, parish and community.*
- ◆ *Our nursery aims to create a happy, ordered environment where all members feel secure, valued and respect each other.*
- ◆ *Our nursery aims to be a positive force within the Catholic church inspired by the life of Christ in the Gospels*

Our named Equalities Champion is Mrs B Draper.

At Our Lady Star of the Sea Nursery, we continuously strive to live our nursery mission statement through all actions, thoughts and words. We place Christ firmly at the foundation of the entire learning process. Underpinning this is the recognition that each person is unique and should be valued and respected. By encouraging, inspiring and challenging each person to fulfil their true potential we strive to ensure that learning is both excellent and enjoyable.

Learning is at the heart of everything we do – it involves everyone in our whole community. We believe that the key to successful learning is effective teaching differentiated to need and individual learning style. Effective teaching occurs when an understanding of how people learn is applied to a variety of learning opportunities. At Our Lady Star of the Sea we are committed to life long learning, actively encouraging everyone to take responsibility for and developing their own understanding of how they best learn.

### **Whole Nursery Aims related to this policy**

- To set and expect high standards in everything we do.
- To provide a structured, stimulating environment, this builds on strengths and supports need; thus promoting independence and self-esteem.
- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum, this challenges all children to achieve their true potential.
- To equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills to progress confidently into all education and adult life.

### **Policy Aims**

- To develop children as independent learners who know how they best learn.
- To enable effective learning.
- To promote both reflective learning and teaching.
- To encourage a consistent approach to teaching.

# Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Nursery

## Learning and Teaching Policy

- To enable children to make maximum possible progress intellectually, physically, socially, spiritually and morally.
- To enable all children to have equal access to all learning opportunities.

### **Learning Environment**

We recognise that the environment plays an integral role in promoting independent, effective learning. We aim to provide a learning environment which:

- Promotes an atmosphere of mutual respect.
- Is calm
- Offers communication friendly spaces
- Promotes independence and appropriate ways of working.
- Is well ordered and organised.
- Is stimulating to all the senses.
- Has a variety of displays covering the breadth of the curriculum.
- Has displays which are interactive, celebrate children's work and set standards of presentation.
- Is rich in language.
- Is rich in number.
- Is used daily as a teaching resource.
- Conveys high levels of expectation.
- Is consistent
- Is secure and safe
- Is creative/imaginative promoting divergent thinking

### **Learning**

We believe that learners are most effective when they are involved in and take responsibility for their own learning.

Learning at Our Lady's is a shared experience between all learners, which encourages all to grow in independence and face new challenges with enthusiasm.

We aim to promote children's ability to:

- Reflect and consider all possibilities.
- Ask and answer questions.
- Actively listen.
- Contribute to discussions in a relevant and thoughtful way.
- Explain their understanding.
- Appreciate and evaluate their own work and that of others.
- Co-operate and work collaboratively with peers and adults.
- To problem solve.
- Select appropriate resources for tasks.
- Organise their learning opportunities.

## Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Nursery Learning and Teaching Policy

- Respond to tasks with learnt and new knowledge.
- Take pride in the presentation of their work.
- Respond positively to established routines and practices.
- Make important decisions about their own learning.

We recognise that adults in nursery are also learners and that all of the mentioned aspects of learning also apply to them. At Our Lady's we strive to provide opportunities for adults to develop their skills as learners.

### **Teaching**

At Our Lady's we recognise that the organisation and effectiveness of teaching has a direct impact on the quality of a child's learning experience. Therefore, we strive to develop and refine our teaching by continuously reflecting upon the delivery of our activities and learning experiences. We accept the responsibility for continued professional development and learning.

Within our daily work we strive to:

- Have high and realistic expectations of ourselves and our child.
- Be well planned and organised.
- Be a good role model- be punctual, dress, speak appropriately and show respect for others.
- Be supportive of and assist colleagues by respecting individual differences and by working collaboratively as part of a whole nursery team.
- Have appropriate levels of subject knowledge.
- Take a reflective approach to our work.
- Seek to improve our skills and understanding through planned professional development.
- Develop systems and organisation which support independent learning.
- Enjoy our teaching and maintain our enthusiasm and sense of humour.

We aim our teaching to demonstrate:

- Clear and shared learning objectives.
- Good quality planning and stimulating resources.
- Varied organisation of children: individual, pairs and groups
- Differentiated and matched activities reflecting an understanding of each child's ability and development levels.
- A range of teaching styles and methods to meet all needs.
- Good pace and effective use of time.
- Activity organisation which involves children in their own learning.
- Developmental questioning which challenges children to think and reflect.
- Challenge, encouraging risk taking and learning from mistakes.
- Assessment, which helps children to recognise both strengths and weaknesses and the next steps on their learning journey.

# Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Nursery

## Learning and Teaching Policy

### **Resources**

We recognise that to be effective, learning and teaching must be supported by adequate levels of appropriately, stored resources.

- Of good quality showing appreciation for best value.
- Ample for the levels of use.
- Appropriate for each task.
- Frequently reviewed for continued relevance and suitability.
- Labelled in appropriate storage.
- Varied to allow for differentiation and preference.
- Able to meet the needs of children and staff.
- Organised and stored to promote independence.

We recognise that all resources are to be used to support learning opportunities for all children and therefore will be shared.

### **Planning**

Good planning enables learning opportunities to be organised effectively. At Our Lady's planning is through:

- Key Person planning based on children's individual needs based on prior knowledge and observation.
- Long term plans - yearly.
- Monthly plans for all seven areas of learning –informed by Key Person observations
- A balance of adult led and child led learning
- Weekly KP reviews.
- Senior Management Team meetings.
- Staff curriculum based meetings.
- Informal discussions between colleagues
- Education and Health Care Plans.

All planning considers the individual child and what the next learning step should be therefore prior knowledge and assessment are crucial to ensure continuity and progression.

### **Assessment**

At Our Lady's we recognise that assessment is a powerful tool, which helps to ensure that learning fits individual needs. Therefore, we actively involve children in the whole process to encourage them to take responsibility for their own learning and help them to begin to make decisions about the next steps to take.

# Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Nursery

## Learning and Teaching Policy

Effective assessment is achieved through:

- Daily interactions, observations and discussions.
- Children’s reflections and evaluation of own work.
- Staff assessments.
- Key person floor books
- Ferre Laevers Observation and Assessment tool for Wellbeing and Involvement.

### **Organisation for Learning**

We recognise that learning is most effective when the person directing the learning ensures that systems, procedures and expectations result in effective ways to:

- Meet the needs of all children
- Meet the learning objectives.
- Optimises the use of all team members.

Learning is at its most effective when the person directing the learning enables a variety of learning opportunities and styles to be experienced and matches teaching to the preferences and abilities of the child. This provides the child with the optimal opportunity to learn.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

At Our Lady’s we recognise that it is the responsibility of all staff to monitor and evaluate this policy by developing reflective practices, acting as a critical friend to colleagues, and by listening to comments from children, staff and parents.

We recognise that Learning and Teaching is the responsibility of everyone and can only be effective if all the community works together.

**Signature of Chair of Committee members:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Nursery Supervisor:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_