



Teaching and Learning Policy

Approved by the Governing Body

Spring 2026

Achievement, Belonging, Confidence

At Larkfields Infant School we pride ourselves on creating a warm and welcoming environment where everyone belongs and thrives. We recognise that all children are unique, and we provide high quality, meaningful education to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed and fulfil their potential.

Introduction

At Larkfields Infant School we believe in the concept of life long learning. We regard the teaching and learning that takes place in our school as a continuum which begins from the moment of birth through into adulthood. Through our teaching and curriculum, we equip children with the knowledge, skills and understanding to become life long learners and successful adults.

Aims

- Helping every child to thrive in a secure and caring atmosphere where standards of behaviour, social conduct and academic achievement are paramount.
- Building upon and developing individuals' strengths and talents through a love of learning inspired by quality teaching.
- Equipping each child with the skills, knowledge and positive disposition they need for lifelong learning through an effective curriculum.
- Developing confident learners, who take responsibility for their own learning and are proud of their achievements.
- Developing children with enquiring minds that are able to question and make connections.
- Providing an inclusive environment that is healthy, caring and safe and promotes a healthy and active lifestyle.
- Developing respect for self and others, an understanding of the world in which they live, and an appreciation and respect for difference in all forms.

Teaching Strategies

All teaching is structured to maximise learning opportunities and lessons are based on these key principles:

- Teaching should build on previous learning
- Children should be given the big picture and understand how an individual lesson fits into a sequence of learning
- The teacher will share the learning objective
- New knowledge and skills are broken down into small steps and modelled and explained by teachers
- Teachers will make adaptations to their delivery to ensure all children can access the curriculum

- Misconceptions are identified and addressed through effective planning.
- Teachers plan lessons that engage children to work hard
- Scaffolding is used to break down learning into small steps to allow all children to access the curriculum and succeed.
- Children are provided with opportunities to encounter challenge.
- Feedback is used to help children identify their strengths and areas to develop.
- Opportunities are planned for children to work in pairs and small groups which allows children to develop, share and evaluate ideas.
- Children know what they need to do to be successful, teachers make this clear within the lesson.
- Opportunities are planned to retrieve knowledge repeatedly over time to ensure children know more.
- Play is used throughout the school in a purposeful way to support learning. (See the school's Play Policy)

The development of these key principles is based on current educational theory and practice.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Children are explicitly taught and adults continually model the CoEL that underpin the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. These are built upon and continued into Key Stage One and are taught through our STAR value of Active Learner.

Children are taught:

- Resilience
- Exploration and curiosity
- Critical thinking and questioning
- Planning and Evaluation

Inclusive Education

We recognise that all children have different starting points and different abilities and needs. At Larkfields we ensure that all staff have a good understanding of how best to support all children to succeed. Quality first teaching underpins all methods of teaching and reasonable adjustments are made to support the learning of all children. At times children may need to access additional support through our extensive programme of effective interventions.

The Learning Environment

At Larkfields we believe that the physical and emotional learning environment contributes significantly to learning. Our classrooms are attractive, inspiring and well-resourced environments where children are able to easily access the things they need. Displays within our classrooms are a mix of working walls with key information to support learning and celebration displays that showcase children's work and help to develop a sense of belonging to the space.

All classrooms contain book areas, phonic displays and resources to support the development of English and Maths.

All teachers and support staff are relentless in their aim to develop trusting and nurturing relationships with all children. These relationships form the foundations upon which children are able to explore, learn and grow with confidence.

The role of the Headteacher and Senior leadership Team

The head teacher and senior leadership team are the primary leaders of teaching and learning within the school. Their own practice models high quality teaching. They have a responsibility to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of learning across the school, and lead the strategic development of teaching and learning in the school's pursuit of excellence.

This is achieved through:

- The development and monitoring of a progressive; broad and balanced curriculum for all children.
- Formal performance management and appraisal of teaching over time.
- Mentoring and coaching.
- Analysis and overseeing pupil assessment.
- A variety of planned for monitoring activities.
- Development of effective continuous professional development for all staff.
- Seeking pupil and other stakeholder views.

The Role of the Governing Body

The governors at Larkfields Infant School monitor and review the school's approach to teaching and learning.

They ensure;

- Funds are spent effectively to resource and support the curriculum.
- Staff development and performance management promote and deliver high standards in teaching and learning.
- Effective teaching and learning strategies are monitored in terms of pupil attainment particularly in vulnerable pupil groups.

The Role of Parents

We believe that parents and carers have a fundamental role to play in supporting their child's education. We have a range of strategies to support parent's understanding and knowledge of our curriculum and teaching.

This takes the form of:

- Parent workshops and open sessions.
- Information booklets and weekly chirps.
- Parents appointments and end of year reports.

- Access to online platforms such as the Collins ebook site.