



# Teaching and Learning Policy



Play, Learn and Grow Together

## **Mission Statement**

We aim to provide an environment in which the potential of every child can be realised.

## **Aims**

During the year in Nursery we aim to:

- Help children to develop the skills, knowledge, values and attitudes needed for learning
- Develop children's self esteem, self confidence and independence
- Nurture and enhance their social and emotional development
- Provide opportunities for physical development
- Create an environment where children's language can flourish and develop, and where they can become effective communicators
- Encourage a sense of wonder and curiosity in children
- Help children develop strategies for active exploration, thinking and reasoning
- Offer opportunities for children to represent their learning through story, song, rhyme, art
- Provide each child with reading, writing and mathematical opportunities across a broad spectrum of activities. This will build a firm foundation for their future development at school
- Ease the transition between Nursery and Primary School through a transition programme and close working relationship with the primary one classes. Nursery pupils make use of the whole school facilities throughout the year
- Develop ICT skills through a wide range of resources e.g. light box, listening centre, computer, iPads, cameras

## **We believe:**

- The Nursery year is part of a child's childhood, to be enjoyed in its own right
- Children in Nursery learn and develop best through play
- Children have individual differences and needs which must be recognised and met
- Children in the Nursery need the encouragement and help of the adults in the Nursery to learn
- Parents are the children's first educators and continue that role in partnership with the Nursery staff
- Play takes many forms, but the heart of play is pleasure. And with pleasure comes the powerful drive to repeat such activities. With repetition comes mastery. And mastery brings a sense of accomplishment and confidence

# Characteristics of effective teaching and learning

We in Hart Memorial Nursery aim to provide a high quality of provision for our children which enables them to reach their full potential. This implies a commitment and acceptance of the following views:

## Our values

- We value education and, as such, our prime function is to educate the children within our school
- We value equality of treatment for every pupil
- We are concerned about educating the whole person
- We are committed to providing a caring, sharing and stimulating environment for both staff and pupils
- We value high expectations of our pupils, teachers, school and parents

## Our priorities

- To nurture all children's emotional well-being
- To value children's play as meaningful and recognise the importance of their play
- To provide opportunities for children to learn strategies for effective exploration, thinking and reasoning
- To enable children to become effective communicators

## These values and priorities are realised when children can:

- Determine their own actions and make their own choices
- Pay attention, maintain concentration and become involved
- Tolerate and enjoy a degree of change, surprise, uncertainty and puzzlement
- Feel confident and express emotional needs
- Enjoy relationships with adults and children where they form friendships, develop a sense of belonging and feel that they are a valued member of the Nursery
- Develop self-control and ways of resolving conflicts
- Make decisions, choose their own materials and set their own problems
- Have the attitude that not knowing and being uncertain are part of the process of being a good learner
- Take responsibility for their own learning
- Know that trying things out, exploring and being curious are important and valued ways of learning
- Perceive themselves as 'explorers'
- Make discoveries for themselves
- Experiment with materials, play around with ideas, and explore actively with all the senses
- Observe, plan, make a guess, ask questions, set and solve problems, make comparisons, explain to others, listen to others, think logically

# Promoting Learning

## The Role of the staff

- To give priority to settling the children happily in school and continue to promote their confidence and co-operation
- Provide a rich and stimulating environment which promotes the children's all-round development
- Value and encourage children's play; interact with children as they play in a stimulating way, and use it as the main vehicle to promote learning
- Promote children's abilities and skills to make choices and decisions for themselves
- Have high expectations of children's learning abilities
- Agree and implement the curriculum, management of the children, observation and assessment and general aims of the nursery
- Model open communication, a sense of mutual trust, and effective teamwork for children
- Identify children's abilities and support and encourage their progress
- To observe and recognise children's individual needs and plan for these accordingly

## Organisation of Play

- Children are given time to engage in free play with access to a wide range of equipment, materials, and stimulating activities
- All aspects of the pre-school curriculum are planned for including music, story and physical play both indoors and outdoors. Outdoor play is seen as an extension of indoors
- The necessary routines e.g. snack, lunch, toileting and collecting coats are organised efficiently so children are not waiting about or curtailed in their play
- The beginning and end of the day is organised to facilitate informal contact between staff and parents / carers

## Planning and Monitoring the curriculum

Staff will:

- Plan the Nursery programme as a team in line with the Pre-school Curricular Guidance
- Identify and ensure all staff are aware of the learning potential within areas
- Take account of the needs of the children through systematic assessment
- Evaluate the children's progress and use it to inform future planning
- Use assessment of children to meet individual needs
- Provide parents / carers with regular and comprehensive information about their children's progress

## **Staff interaction to ensure optimum learning and development**

Staff will:

- Interact easily and spontaneously with children
- Support the child's chosen play
- Promote safe, productive play
- Exploit the learning potential of the activities and equipment
- Encourage, through open questioning and comments, children's curiosity, imagination and abilities to solve problems
- Develop children's language and learning across the curriculum

## **Monitoring, recording and reporting the children's progress**

- At the start of the year information is gathered from parents regarding their children through an open night for parents, an open day for children, a pupil and parent induction day at the beginning of September, questionnaires for parents to complete and ongoing daily communication.
- Staff systematically observe children and record all aspects of their development
- A profile of each child's progress and achievements is kept
- Observation and assessment feeds into and guides the planned educational programme
- Observation and assessment of each child is used to inform parents through parent / teacher meetings and ongoing daily communication. Parents /carers are encouraged to work alongside the Nursery to support their child at home
- Records kept for each child include: contact details, data collection sheet, medical information, 'Help Us Get To Know Your Child' questionnaire, meal time questionnaire, permission slips, observation Folder, Nursery portfolio of work.

We will process your child's personal information on the legal basis that it is part of our **legal obligation** as a school and is in the **vital interest** of our pupils to do so. We will share this personal information with certain third parties [please refer to 'Privacy Notice: Pupils & Families' on the school website ([www.hartmemorialps.org.uk/schoolpolicies](http://www.hartmemorialps.org.uk/schoolpolicies)) for a list of third parties with whom we share personal data and for reasons why this is necessary].

## **Provision for children with Special Educational Needs**

Staff will:

- Organise activities and materials to provide for the special needs of children
- Ensure that all children have equal access to the curriculum
- Provide the necessary support when the special educational needs are identified.
- Ensure individual educational plans have targets which are specific to the child's needs, can be measured and are attainable within a reasonable amount of time.
- Seek appropriate help and advice from other relevant professionals and outside agencies
- Keep the child's parents fully informed and involved

## Links with Parents

Please see Parental Involvement Policy

## Liaison with others

- Links with the Primary School - the staff recognise the vital importance of a smooth transition from home to school, and from nursery to P1. A transition programme is in place which is implemented in June each year
- Links with Blossom Sure Start transition programme
- Settling in to Nursery is proceeded with slowly; it is monitored by staff and involves liaison with the parent
- Primary 1 teachers are given verbal and written information on each child's progress
- Primary 1 teachers are encouraged to liaise with the Nursery staff, especially during the first term of year 1, to meet the individual children's needs
- Staff maintain relationships with other professionals e.g. Health Visitor, Dental Nurse, Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Educational Psychologist, Autism Intervention Services, RISE NI. This improves the provision for all children and, in particular, those with Special Educational Needs
- Link with Christian Brothers Primary School (Shared Education partner)

## The Community

- The staff recognise the local community as a valuable resource which enables them to extend the children's opportunities for learning
- The staff use the local community to contribute to the life of the nursery through educational visits, open days, trips, competitions and concerts e.g.
  - Fire services
  - PSNI
  - Nurse
  - Vet
  - Dentist
  - Library
  - Supermarkets
  - Mackay Eye Care
  - Postman
  - Jo Jingles
  - Fundraising by Nursery

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