



Teaching for Learning Policy

Aim of the policy:

- To involve everyone in learning and develop a 'growth mindset'
- To ensure consistency and continuity in our approach
- To ensure the quality of learning and improvement of standards continues
- To set out our expectations of good practice
- To provide a tool for monitoring, evaluation, accountability and school improvement

What is learning?

Here at iCAN we have defined learning. Our definition is that:

'Learning is an ongoing journey of discovery. We can gain new knowledge; practise and improve our skills and develop our understanding through making connections and learning from our experiences.'

Each learning team have their own age appropriate definition (see appendix) which is displayed in the classrooms. We aim to ensure that all learners are developing and improving skills, knowledge and understanding across all lessons and activities both socially and academically.

What is knowledge, skills and understanding?

We believe that learning can be broken down into three areas.

Knowledge:

- knowing 'that'
- continually expanding - there is no end to the amount of new knowledge being discovered
- right or wrong - while our perceptions may change over time, we tend to believe something to be true or false at any given time
- easily assessable - Knowledge is the type of learning we can assess with quizzes and tests.

Skills:

- practical - knowing 'how'
- the essence of many disciplines - scientific skills are what make scientists behave as scientists; musical skills are what makes someone recognisably a musician
- relatively few in number and relatively consistent over time
- developmental rather than right or wrong - the reason concert pianists and golfers keep practising is that there is no finishing point to skills
- different to assess or evaluate than knowledge; skills have to be observed in context

Understanding:

- the steady incorporation of ideas and concepts into our overall scheme of how things are
- complex, multiple connections of neuronal pathways
- multi-dimensional
- uncertain, fluid

- personal
- developed within the relationship between acquired knowledge, developed skills and time for extended reflection around a theme
- Impossible to assess and difficult to evaluate.

Each learning team have their own age appropriate definition (See appendix 2) along with questions, strategies and examples. It is important that children understand the different ways in which they learn.

What kinds of learning?

There are three main types of learning goals. They are:

- Subject
- Personal
- International

Subject Goals:

Our subject goals are stated on our iCAN mindmaps and come from the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) and International Middle Years Curriculum (IMYC).

Personal Goals:

Our personal goals are qualities that we would like to foster within our learners. Efforts to achieving these goals are reflected in our curriculums and all other aspects of school life. iCAN children are learning to be:

*Adaptable
Communicators
Cooperative
Enquirers
Principled
Resilient
Respectful
Risk Takers
Thinkers*

Each learning team created age-appropriate, achievable goals for each of these qualities. It is vital that we link these goals to learning experiences and practices in and out of the classroom so that children can articulate and demonstrate our shared vision. (See appendix 3)

International Goals:

Here at iCAN we have defined international mindedness. We believe:

‘Being internationally minded means having an awareness of self and our place and role in the local, national, international community and the wider world. It means being able to recognise and respect the similarities and differences across cultures and understand how they influence and affect each other.’

As a learning team, we believe children learn best when:

- They are happy and feel safe
- They are given new and varied experiences
- They are supported and challenged
- They have time to think, work and reflect
- They have a ‘growth mind-set’ – they reflect on mistakes and view them as learning opportunities
- They are interested, curious and motivated
- They are able to celebrate their successes and improve their learning
- They experience high quality, purposeful learning
- They learn with other learners

- There are clear, consistent high expectations

Strategies used to promote effective learning:

To help children feel happy and safe, we will:

- Treat them fairly and consistently
- Show them that we work closely with their families in support of their welfare and learning
- Value their ideas and opinions and make time to listen to what they have to say
- Act as positive role models
- Build on their confidence and self esteem
- Provide opportunities for relaxing/energising in and between activities
- Use our day openers to give children the opportunity to share their feelings
- Implement a clear behaviour policy
- Implement a clear anti-bullying policy
- Implement an effective child protection policy

To help children by providing new and varied experiences, we will:

- Create opportunities for working individually, in pairs, in groups and with the whole class
- Vary teaching and learning styles for pupils to exhibit learning in a range of styles
- Deliver a broad, engaging and varied curriculum
- Provide opportunities for child-led exploration and investigation

To help children by ensuring they are challenged and supported, we will:

- Inform parents and carers about the curriculum and learning they will experience next
- Use target setting and assessment procedures to track their progress and identify their learning needs
- Use a range of resources appropriate to the children's needs
- Communicate to children's families that we value their contribution
- Provide home learning tasks appropriate to their age and ability
- Differentiate tasks appropriate to the learner's needs

To help children have time to think, work and reflect, we will:

- Plan time to think and to talk with children about their learning
- Reflect on learning during daily Reflection time
- Use co-operative learning structures that give children time to share ideas
- Plan lessons effectively integrating cooperative learning with individual development
- Have clear guidelines of our expectation of a cooperative classroom

To help children develop a 'growth mind set', we will:

- Model a growth mindset by encouraging all members of the iCAN team to be active, lifelong learners, who share their interest in learning with colleagues and the wider school community.
- Encourage parents and carers to be life long learners who are actively engaged with their children's learning both in and out of school
- Plan learning opportunities that are adapted to meet the needs of individual children
- Give children opportunities to ask questions
- Show respect for them and their contributions through verbal feedback and marking
- Involve them in all areas of formative assessment and identification of new targets
- Involve them in collaborative learning

To ensure children are interested, curious and motivated learners, we will:

- Deliver a broad and relevant curriculum
- Encourage all staff to be enthusiastic, inspiring and curious
- Use educational visits to enrich learning

- Provide opportunities for learners to apply their learning in practical contexts
- Give them opportunities to discuss their learning
- Provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities
- Ensure that a range of learning and teaching styles are used in lessons

To help children celebrate their successes and improve their learning, we will:

- Focus feedback on learning objectives
- Use constructive comments
- Identify strengths and points for improvements
- Use a clear and concise marking policy
- Look for every opportunity to identify success

To ensure children experience high quality, purposeful learning, we will:

- Have clear long-, medium-, and short-term plans that identify intended learning outcomes for children
- Provide learning facilitators and learning support assistants with day-to-day support and a planned programme of continuous professional development
- Fully implement the Learning Support and EAL policies
- Monitor the effectiveness of our teaching through 'Looking for Learning'

To help children learn with other learners we will:

- Build in time to every lesson/day for individuals, pairs and groups to
 - Think, talk or write about learning experiences
 - Plan for improvement
- Follow the cooperative learning classroom guidelines

To help children by ensuring that there are clear, consistent high expectations we will:

- Implement the school behaviour policy consistently
- Give children clear goals and time limits
- Have high and clearly communicated expectations that every adult on the school premises will set a good example as a member of the community
- Involve them in self-assessment and target setting

INTERVENTION

As a result of our regular formative assessment, we plan interventions that will support children and move them forward in their learning. Our Learning Support team identify children that would benefit from additional support in their learning; they plan interventions to support the learning of these children (see Learning Support Policy July 2014 for details)

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Our assessment and feedback procedures and strategies are in place to help take children's learning forward. Our assessment procedures are carefully designed to help learners progress. Effective formative assessment consists of four elements:

1. Sharing learning goals
2. Effective questioning
3. Self and Peer evaluation
4. Effective feedback

Sharing learning goals

It is fundamental that at iCAN, learners have a clear understanding of what they are trying to learn, how they can recognise achievement, what 'good' looks like and why they are learning it in the first place.

Learning goals:

- Must be shared with children at the start of learning sessions and visually displayed
- Must be referred to throughout the learning session
- Should be clear, and not confused with context or outcomes
- Learners need time to understand and engage with the learning goal
- Learners should be given the bigger picture and the next steps to their learning

Success criteria:

- Must be shared with children throughout their learning sessions
- Summarises the key steps learners need in order to fulfil the learning intention –the main things to do, include or focus on.
- Can be differentiated to meet the needs of the learners
- Used as rubrics in IPC to support the Key Learning Goals (skills)
- All iCAN staff to use the Looking for Learning language – 'learning' to replace 'doing'.

Effective questioning

- Learning should be recognisable as knowledge based, skills centred or developing understanding, and questioning should be adapted to suit this. (See KSU prompts)
- A range of questioning styles are used to help children's understanding

Self and Peer evaluation

- Children are encouraged to use a range of strategies to evaluate their own learning during learning sessions (see appendix)
- Children's rubrics are used so that pupils can assess their own learning
- Cooperative learning structures are used to support peer evaluation

Effective feedback

- Verbal feedback should be used throughout learning sessions to all children
- Children need to be given time to read learning facilitator comments and to reflect on their learning

Our Feedback and Marking Policy sets out clear guidelines for expectations at iCAN. We have many strategies and procedures to support AfL. (See Appendix) Each curriculum has clear assessment formats which can be found in the curriculum policies.

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Learners at iCAN are assessed using **InCAS** which is a computer-delivered adaptive assessment program designed for learners aged 5-11 years, offering personalised diagnostic reading/maths assessment. Information provided by InCAS is analysed and informs our school development plan, targeting learning needs across the school. The results are analysed alongside discussion with the learning facilitators and support team.

HOME LEARNING

Here at iCAN we believe that children who are motivated to learn will be covering their learning goals during the school day through a range of engaging and challenging activities. After school it is important that they have time to socialise, pursue other interests and relax. We think it is important for families to understand and join children with their learning so we have a number of strategies to support this.

Home activity packs are given out for our children and their families to engage with together. They cover a range of different learning experiences such as cookery, construction and modelling that may differ from the learning inside the classrooms. Our website provides children with additional learning opportunities through games and interactive blogs about our classroom themes and topics. Optional Maths and spelling sheets are available from classes each week for children to rehearse skills learnt during the week.

Children in MP2 and MP3 have the opportunity to complete Enrichment Tasks. These tasks are linked to their Learning Journey topics to consolidate and extend on learning developed throughout a unit. The children create a project and are then awarded points for their effort. These points are collated and their successes are celebrated in a reward afternoon at the end of the school year.

Policy review

The schools Teaching for Learning (TfL) policy will be kept under regular review and updated each year.