

Nursery & Infants Teaching and Learning Policy



St John's College, Cardiff

NURSERY & INFANTS TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY

This policy applies to the following section/s of the School:
Infant School & Nursery.

Version: September 2024

(Curriculum Review, including our approach to teaching and learning, is a Development Target for this academic year so elements may evolve throughout the year.)

We believe that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. In both the Nursery and the Infants, we aim to lay firm foundations upon which all further knowledge may be based. We strive to help all the children in our care to develop their individual talents through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum. This policy outlines our approach to teaching, which is the responsibility of all staff in the Nursery and the Infants.

Our Philosophy

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment that they are born. The care and education in our Nursery and Infant department helps children to continue to do this by providing them with meaningful and relevant experiences as they begin to appreciate the global community. We believe that it is crucial to value each child's past experiences and then build upon them. We celebrate the uniqueness of each individual and aim to maximise their enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge, while developing their independence.

We believe that effective teaching and learning can only take place if the children in our care feel happy, secure and valued.

Effective Learning

We offer children different opportunities to learn in different ways and recognise that many children need opportunities to pursue learning at length and in depth. Children need time to consolidate what has been discovered and taught. We revisit topics to reinforce skills and knowledge, adding another layer of understanding each time.

The curriculum includes:

- Communication, Language and Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Digital Competence;
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World (Science, Geography, History);
- Physical Development (PE, Outdoor Learning, fine motor skills);
- Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Emotional Development;
- Creative (Art, Music, Drama, Design)
- Religious Education
- Welsh and Italian (R6 and R7)

Our Nursery and Infant staff plan purposeful activities that are challenging but achievable, based on these areas of learning. We take into account the age and previous experience of the children and their development level. Our planning outlines intended learning and the skills that are to be taught. We aim to ensure that the curriculum is holistic and differentiated and that it meets the needs of individual children. We aim to provide an environment in which all children will flourish; we are committed to providing equality of opportunity, regardless of race, gender, belief, disability and religion.

All our staff:

- listen attentively;

- ask purposeful, open-ended questions;
- give appropriate encouragement and feedback;
- intervene in a sensitive way;
- become involved and work alongside the children, leading activities planned by the teacher;
- differentiate activities to meet the needs of MAT children and those with ALN;
- provide opportunities for the children to play co-operatively and collaboratively;
- value and affirm the contributions made by the children and accept home languages and experiences;
- encourage children to choose activities and develop independence;
- create an environment whereby all cultures are valued;
- observe, monitor and assess the progress of the children, to inform planning;
- observe, monitor and assess the progress of the children;
- share information with parents and carers, and other professionals across the areas of learning.

Parents

We operate an open door policy and appreciate that partnership with parents is crucial. We aim to create a climate of shared responsibility and mutual respect. We recognise that parents are their child's first educators, and by working in partnership, we can all significantly affect children's achievements, and help them to reach their full potential. We hold a Parents' Meeting each term and a written report is sent out in February and July.

We inform parents of their child's learning through the weekly update to parents and the weekly 'What are we learning this week?' sent home by Form Tutors. Homework tasks help support class based learning and reading records enable the sharing of information. Parents can also see what their child has been doing in school through the Nursery and Infant X (Twitter) accounts

Planning

We believe that planning should be shared with all members of staff working with the children. It is the class teacher's responsibility to plan lessons and assign tasks to the supporting staff. When we plan, we take into account the age, experience and developmental needs of the children in our care. We also consider the skills and experience of staff working alongside the teacher in charge.

All curriculum planning within the Nursery and the Infant department is based on the above areas of learning. KUW is split into separate subject areas in R6 and R7 as the children mature. When we plan, we view the curriculum on a long, medium and short-term basis. We ensure that the curriculum is balanced and differentiated to meet the needs of the individual children.

We will ensure that the curriculum builds upon previous experience, allowing for continuity and progression. We assess the learning taking place and evaluate our teaching. We change the curriculum to meet individual needs when appropriate. We follow the broad remit of the Welsh Curriculum with a strong emphasis on the acquisition of literacy, numeracy and digital skills.

