



Stillness Junior School

Teaching and Learning Policy

Last Reviewed: January 2017
Review Date: January 2019

1 Introduction

At Stillness Junior School we believe in the concept of lifelong learning and the idea that both adults and children learn exciting new things every day. We maintain that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone; it should be **fun**. Our vision is that Stillness will provide a cooperative community effort to encourage the maximum achievement of each student. Individuals should be prepared to meet the challenges of lifelong learning with the use of successful teaching strategies that employ future technological and educational approaches. The balance of academic and co-curricular experiences will develop the necessary skills to become contributing members of society.

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 We believe that people learn best in different ways. At our school we provide a rich, varied and creative learning environment that encourages children to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential.

Through our teaching we aim to:

- enable children to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners;
- enable children to communicate in a multiple of forms – written, oral, visual and electronic;
- encourage children to work independently and interdependently;
- foster critical as well as imaginative thinking;
- teach children how to learn;
- foster children's self-esteem and help them build positive relationships with other people;
- develop children's self-respect and encourage children to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others;
- show respect for all cultures and, in so doing, to promote positive attitudes towards other people;
- enable children to understand their community and help them feel valued as part of this community;

Effective Learning Environment

3.1 Effective learning takes place in an environment which:

- is challenging;
- is peaceful and calm;
- is happy and caring;
- is organised
- is well resourced;
- is encouraging and appreciative;
- is welcoming;
- provides equal opportunities;
- provides a working atmosphere.

3.2 Displays should be used to create an attractive and stimulating environment. We believe that a stimulating environment sets the climate for learning, and an exciting classroom promotes independent use of resources and high-quality work by the children. Classrooms should also include a working wall. The purpose of the working wall is to support children's independent writing. It evolves as a unit of work unfolds, and is not intended to be a tidy display of finished work. We ensure that all children have the opportunity to display their best work at some time during the year. Work displayed should be of a high standard and use both 2D and 3D in a variety of media. It should include work on different aspects of the curriculum and reflect the individual child's effort as

well as ability. Ideally displays should stimulate discussion and be accompanied by children's questions and answers. We change displays at least once a term, to ensure that the classroom reflects the topics studied by the children.

4 Effective learning

4.1 We acknowledge that people learn in many different ways and we recognize the need to develop strategies that allow all children to learn in ways that best suit them. Our children come from different backgrounds and different experiences. Therefore we offer opportunities for children to learn in different ways. These include:

- investigation and problem solving;
- research and finding out;
- group work;
- paired work;
- independent work;
- whole-class work;
- asking and answering questions;
- use of the computer;
- fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest;
- creative activities;
- watching television and responding to musical or tape-recorded material;
- debates, role-plays and oral presentations;
- designing and making things;
- participation in athletic or physical activity.
- listening, responding, creating and appraising music

At Stillness Junior School we believe that children learn best when;

- They are encouraged to form positive relationships with their teacher, peers and other members of the school community;
- They have clear direction and are praised for all the good things that they do;
- They are actively involved in their learning at an appropriate level to match their learning needs;
- They are encouraged to become increasingly autonomous learners;
- They are appropriately challenged with learning experiences which are relevant to their lives and interests and are inspiring, motivating and engaging;
- They are working in an environment which is safe, caring, supportive and stimulating;
- Their learning is well structured and delivered;
- Their learning is effectively differentiated;
- Their learning addresses appropriate and pertinent aspects of the children's future development both within overarching and explicit provision;
- Their learning encompasses the values and skills of the school in aiding the development as future effective citizens;
- Their learning enables appropriate and pertinent aspects of personal, social, moral, spiritual, cultural and emotional development within both overarching and explicit provision.

4.2 We encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning, to be involved as far as possible in reviewing the way they learn, and to reflect on how they learn – what helps them learn and what makes it difficult for them to

learn. This takes part at the start of every day, 8.50am - 9.10am, where children will actively read the comments their teacher has written as part of their marking the day before. If there is response marking, the children know to take ownership and respond to the question in green pen. This is then checked for misconceptions by the class teacher or support staff.

5 Effective teaching

5.1 There must be a balance of individual, group, paired and whole-class teaching. Teachers must choose carefully the style of teaching that is most effective and groups will differ in composition and size for different activities. At Stillness Junior we believe effective teaching is when teachers (and other School staff when applicable);

- Form positive relationships with the children in their class and other members of the school community;
- Plan lessons effectively which take children's prior learning and current assessment into account and are appropriately differentiated in order that the lessons consolidate, build upon and extend learning for all children;
- Insist on high expectations of learning and social behaviours;
- Ensure that effective direction and support is given in order that the children make good progress;
- Demonstrate secure subject and pedagogical knowledge in order to inspire children and build their understanding;
- Apply a range of teaching styles which appropriately match the children's learning styles in order to sustain their concentration, motivation and application;
- Develop and sustain good links and focused communication with parents/carers in order to support the children's learning;
- Develop and maintain safe, secure and inspiring classroom and learning environments;
- Demonstrate effective lesson organization;
- Effectively assess and monitor children's progress in order that they can extend children's learning both within individual lessons and over time;
- Use resources effectively, including other adults, to support children's learning;
- Use technology effectively in order to support children's learning;
- Develop the range of reading skills required to access all the curriculum effectively;
- Use questioning effectively to gauge and extend children's skills, knowledge and understanding;
- Are reflective regarding their professional practice and the overall provision the School offers.
- Ensuring that teachers and teaching assistants are equipped with the necessary skills, resources and knowledge needed in order to provide the children with the best possible learning experiences both in class and when undertaking interventions.

5.2 When teaching we focus on motivating the children and building on their previous skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. We use the school curriculum plan, Literacy Tree and Singapore Maths to guide our teaching. This sets out the aims, objectives and values of the school and details what is to be taught to each year group.

5.3 We base our teaching on our knowledge of the children's level of attainment and interest. Our prime focus is to further develop the knowledge and skills of the children. We strive to ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to each

child's level of ability, but still ensuring challenge. When planning work for children with special educational needs we give due regard to information and targets contained in the children's Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). We have **high expectations of all children** at Stillness Junior School.

- 5.4** We plan our lessons with clear learning objectives. We take these objectives from the National Curriculum or the Literacy Tree or Singapore Maths. Our lesson plans contain information about the tasks to be set, the resources needed, and the way we assess the children's work. We evaluate lessons so that we can modify and improve our teaching in the future.
- 5.5** Teachers also use the tracking system of the SPTO to continually assess if the children are achieving age related expectations. Teachers regularly assess children against each of the new National Curriculum objectives for reading, writing, SPAG, maths and Science. Teachers can input if children are working towards, have mostly achieved, achieved or mastered each objective. (See example snapshot from the SPTO tracker).

The screenshot shows the SPTO tracking system interface for 'STILLNESS JUNIOR SCHOOL | CLASS 4N [28] | 2016/2017'. It displays a table with columns for 'KS2 Y4 Composition' objectives and rows for individual students. The table includes a 'Help Card' section with a 'Change Aspect' dropdown, 'Year Achieved' dropdown, 'Month' dropdown, 'Page 1' dropdown, and 'Order by' dropdown. The table data is as follows:

KS2 Y4 Composition...	KS2 Y4 Composition...	KS2 Y4 Composition...	KS2 Y4 Composition...	KS2 Y4 Composition...	KS2 Y4 Composition...
Plan their writing by discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar.	Plan their writing by discussing and recording ideas.	Draft and write by composing and rehearsing sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of	Key Draft and write by organising paragraphs around a theme.	Key Draft and write by creating settings, characters and plot in narratives.	
Mostly Achieved [Year 4 Nov]	Achieved [Year 4 Nov]	Mostly Achieved [Year 4 Nov]			
Working Towards [Year 4 Nov]	Mostly Achieved [Year 4 Nov]	Working Towards [Year 4 Nov]			
Mostly Achieved [Year 4 Nov]	Mostly Achieved [Year 4 Nov]	Working Towards [Year 4 Nov]			

- 5.6** Routines and rules in the classroom contribute to a healthy learning environment. To be effective they should be:
- agreed by the children and clearly understood;
 - fair and consistent;
 - realistic and positive;
 - kept to a minimum but enforceable;
 - daily activities with which the children are familiar;
 - reviewed frequently;

All rules should result in the children knowing the boundaries of behaviour and should be set within the terms of the 'Positive Behaviour Policy.' Each of our teachers makes a special effort to establish good working relationships with all children in the class. We treat the children with kindness and respect. We treat them fairly and give them equal opportunity to take part in class activities.

- 5.7** Social, physical, creative and academic achievements are celebrated in many ways as an ongoing process in all aspects of Stillness school life, by:
- verbal or written praise by teachers, peers, Headteacher and parents;
 - displays of work;
 - opportunities to perform or share;

- encouraging self-esteem;
- the awarding of House Points, Headteacher's Certificates and stickers.
- teachers need to arrange time to observe, assess, reflect and review achievements with each child on a regular basis – this does not need to be a formal process.

5.8 We ensure that all tasks and activities that the children do are safe. When we plan to take children out of school, we first inform parents and obtain their permission and follow the guidelines set out in the out of school visits document.

5.9 We deploy teaching assistants and other adult helpers as appropriate. Sometimes they work with individual children and sometimes they work with small groups – not necessarily the same group consistently.

5.10.1 All our teachers reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and plan their professional development needs accordingly. We do all we can to support our teachers in developing their skills, so that they can continually improve their practice. We conduct all our teaching in an atmosphere of trust and respect for all.

6 Equal Opportunities

6.1 All children have the right to equal opportunities. Teachers' expectations of behaviour and performance by all children should be the same. Groups, lines and all activities should be mixed where possible. Particular care should be taken in the areas of Science and mathematics, Technology and Physical activities. Teachers must ensure that the same children do not dominate in group work. All activities, including extracurricular activities at Stillness School are open to all children, numbers permitting.

7 The role of governors

7.1 Our governors determine, support, monitor and review the school policies on teaching and learning. In particular they:

- support the use of appropriate teaching strategies by allocating resources effectively;
- ensure that the school buildings and premises are best used to support successful teaching and learning;
- monitor teaching strategies in the light of health and safety regulations;
- monitor how effective teaching and learning strategies are in terms of raising pupil attainment;
- ensure that staff development and performance management policies promote good quality teaching;
- monitor the effectiveness of the school's teaching and learning policies through the school self-review processes. These include reports from subject leaders and the annual headteacher's report to governors as well as a review of the in-service training sessions attended by our staff.

8 The role of parents

8.1 We believe that parents have a fundamental role to play in helping children to learn. We do all we can to inform parents about what and how their children are learning by:

- holding parents' evenings to explain our school strategies for teaching literacy, numeracy and other curriculum areas;
- keeping the website up to date, so that parents know what topics their children are currently learning.

- explaining to parents how they can support their children with homework. We suggest, for example, regular shared reading with young children, and support for older children with their projects and investigative work.
- Holding curriculum assemblies to show parents/carers what the children have learned.

8.2 We believe that parents have the responsibility to support their children and the school in implementing school policies. We would like parents to:

- ensure that their child has the best attendance record possible;
- ensure that their child is equipped for school with the correct uniform, PE kit, glasses and up to date medicines such as asthma pumps.
- do their best to keep their child healthy and fit to attend school;
- inform the class teacher, SENCO or Headteacher if there are matters outside of school that are likely to affect a child's performance or behaviour at school;
- promote a positive attitude towards school and learning in general;
- fulfil the requirements set out in the home/school agreement.

9 Monitoring and review

We are aware of the need to review the school teaching and learning policy regularly so that we can take account of new initiatives, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school.