



LEARNING AND TEACHING

WHY DO WE HAVE THIS POLICY?

Central to the Vision of Notre Dame Catholic College is the desire to meet the individual needs of all pupils, maximise their potential, equip them with the tools necessary to positively influence their own lives and engender within them the desire to continue to learn when they leave the school.

PURPOSES

- ❖ To improve continually the quality of learning and teaching for pupils in the school;
- ❖ to promote quality learning and teaching that encourages teachers to empower pupils to become more actively involved in setting goals, evaluating their progress and enhancing their ability to achieve superior learning outcomes;
- ❖ to encourage greater participation and enjoyment in learning in order to develop pupils as life long learners able to make valuable contributions to their local and wider community.

HOW DOES THE SCHOOL RESPOND?

- ❖ Learning and teaching strategies, adopted by Heads of Departments, will be flexible, diverse and appropriate to the needs of the individual pupils;
- ❖ all departments will review their learning and teaching strategies annually through self-assessment, review of schemes of learning and through use of allocated departmental time. Learning and teaching will be a continuing focus for the school each year.
- ❖ areas for development are identified through lesson observations, learning walks, departmental reviews or personal professional development needs.
- ❖ teachers will provide rich, dynamic and motivating learning environments.
- ❖ teachers will, where necessary, vary teaching to cater for different learning needs;
- ❖ teachers will provide a balance of individual, group and whole class activities;
- ❖ pupils will be actively involved in discussion and reflection in the classroom and encouraged to direct their own learning when relevant and appropriate;
- ❖ classroom practice will be developmental, open ended and, when relevant, incorporate real life experiences and wider historical and cultural references;
- ❖ class activities will actively encourage problem solving and creative thinking skills;

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- ❖ sharing good practice will be actively encouraged through the learning and teaching directed time and inset;
- ❖ pupils' self-esteem will be promoted so that all children experience success and know that their efforts are valued;
- ❖ teachers will actively promote cooperative learning between colleagues and pupils to continuously analyse learning situations and encourage continuous improvement;
- ❖ teachers will use quality data routinely on which to base decisions for improvement in regard to relationships, processes and learning experiences;
- ❖ a team of teachers, led by a member of SLT, will support the development of teaching and learning across the college;
- ❖ curriculum leaders will lead teaching and learning within their own subject area, disseminating ideas and providing training and helping develop resources to raise standards of learning and teaching;
- ❖ curriculum leaders will work with other schools and outside agencies to share good practice and enhance the development of further strategies to improve learning and teaching within the school.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The focus on learning and teaching is at the heart of the drive to raise standards. This policy will be evaluated in the light of current thinking and inset on learning and teaching in order to ensure high quality provision for all pupils. The monitoring and evaluation of learning and teaching will include:

- ❖ Lesson observations by the Headteacher and SLT with HOD.
- ❖ Departmental reviews which include drop-ins, work scrutiny, HOD interviews and written reports on each department.

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