



LEARNING AND TEACHING POLICY

Policy reviewed and agreed by: Teaching, Learning and Inclusion Committee
Date: September 2026
Next review: September 2027

Introduction

This school policy reflects the consensus of opinion of the teaching staff and has the full agreement of the Teaching, Learning and Inclusion Committee.

At The Federation of Goring and Stoke Row Church of England Schools we are committed to the teaching and learning of all our pupils. Through our teaching we equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices and to prepare them for their future.

Aims and Objectives

This teaching and learning policy is intended to promote consistency and high standards and the achievement of the school aims.

We are a Church of England school serving the whole community. We aim to:

- make a contribution to each child's spiritual, social and emotional development;
- create a caring community where there is respect for all;
- foster the children's curiosity and desire for life-long learning in a safe, stimulating and challenging environment;
- encourage children of all abilities, having high expectations of what children can achieve;
- encourage children to take ownership of their learning.

Effective Learning and Teaching

At The Federation of Goring and Stoke Row Church of England Schools we believe that pupils learn best by:

- teachers having good working knowledge of their subjects;
- ensuring active participation by pupils;
- pupils feeling settled, relaxed and secure;
- giving pupils opportunities to be active learners on their own and with others;
- providing first-hand experience (practical and active learning);

- giving pupils ownership and enabling them to make choices;
- ensuring that learning relates to previous learning or other subjects;
- extending learning opportunities beyond the classroom;
- making links at home or between other subject areas;
- making learning relevant to the pupils' stage of development;
- ensuring that time is given for rehearsing, consolidating, sharing, evaluating and reflecting;
- making opportunities for pupils to use their individual learning styles during lessons;
- enabling risk-taking;
- enabling pupils to be the focus of their own control;
- ensuring that pupils understand how they are learning and how to become more effective learners;
- giving pupils an opportunity to learn from each other, learn with each other, and learn on behalf of each other.

At The Federation of Goring and Stoke Row Church of England Schools we believe the children learn effectively when the teacher:

- makes learning an enjoyable and meaningful experience;
- makes pupils aware of how they can improve;
- supports learning by providing appropriate 'scaffolding' when necessary;
- uses and passes on their own enthusiasms and interests;
- gives time for thinking;
- has high expectations in terms of achievement and behaviour;
- encourages high standards during lessons;
- ensures that activities are stimulating, interesting, varied and match pupils' abilities;
- uses mistakes and misconceptions as an opportunity to learn;
- adapts plans to maximise learning;
- organises the classroom so that pupils can operate independently;
- takes risks with the curriculum by providing a variety of unusual experiences;
- provides a broad and balanced curriculum;
- has a positive relationship with the pupils based on mutual respect;
- understands how to match teaching and learning to the appropriate stage of pupils' development;
- listens to pupils in order to build on their current thinking and understanding;
- acts as a role model for lifelong learning;
- asks open-ended and challenging questions that extend pupils' current thinking;
- uses pupils' prior knowledge.

We base our teaching on our knowledge of the pupils' level of attainment. Our prime focus is to develop and further their knowledge and skills. We strive to ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to each pupil's level of ability. In the younger years this will often be based on the philosophy of continuous provision. When planning work for all pupils, including those with SEND and the most able, we provide mastery activities to broaden and extend learning. We have high expectations of all pupils, and believe that all pupils should be included in the full range of educational opportunities and that their work should be of the highest possible standard. We plan work that is engaging and challenging for children, and for pupils to be able to access the curriculum at a level which is appropriate to their ability.

All teachers establish positive working relationships with the children they are teaching. We treat them fairly and strive to give them equal opportunities to take part in class activities. All teachers follow the school policy with regard to discipline and classroom management. We praise and reward children for good effort and, by so doing,

help to build positive attitudes towards school and learning in general. We insist on good order and behaviour at all times. When children misbehave we follow the guidelines outlined in our school Pupil Behaviour Policy.

We believe that teaching assistants play a vital role in the education of children. They are deployed in a variety of ways to support teaching and learning throughout the school. Sometimes they work with individual children, sometimes they work with small groups, and sometimes they work with a large group allowing the class teacher to work with a small group. Teaching assistants are also fully involved in the implementation of pupil profiles.

The Learning Environment

At The Federation of Goring and Stoke Row Church of England Schools we believe that the purpose of the learning environment is to support pupils' learning. We aim to make the environment:

- Calm
- Aesthetic
- Safe
- Stimulating
- Educational
- Well-organised
- Healthy
- Purposeful

We aim to ensure the provision of good-quality resources, a variety of materials, space for active learning, resources for indoor and outdoor learning, a rich variety of activities, appropriate groupings to maximise learning and active support for the learner. We optimise the learning opportunities within the wider community by involving parents and carers and members of the local wider community.

Planning

All teachers use long-, medium- and short-term planning to assist them in their teaching of children. Teachers produce detailed short-term plans and these are used and adapted as appropriate within the class.

Assessment and Feedback

Please see the separate Assessment and Recording Policy and the separate Feedback Policy.

Reviewing and Monitoring this Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually at the start of each academic year.