St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation

For the good of all through curiosity, creativity and love

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Contact:	governors@stjohnandstnicolasschools.org.uk
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1.4				

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St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation
Teaching and Learning Policy

At St John and St Nicolas Schools Federation, our vision is 'For the good of all – through curiosity, creativity and love.' This vision inspires everything that the federation does. It applies equally to all the federation's policies with the intention that our policies impact as fairly and positively as possible to meet the needs of all members of our schools' community.

The teaching and learning policy in our federation reflects how we will implement the curriculum statement to ensure that every child has the opportunity to make good progress in knowledge and skills across a broad curriculum. Our teaching and learning policy is centred in our school vision, 'For the good of all - through curiosity, creativity and love.'

1: Aims
The aims of teaching and learning in our federation are as follows:

- To engender a love of learning, and curiosity about the world in which we live.
- To provide high quality foundations for learning both in terms of academic skills and personal and social skills, building from our Nursery and Foundation Stage provision up.
- For all learning to build towards a clear endpoint, with children having a clear understanding how they can achieve this.
- Whilst it is not possible for staff to have subject specialisms in all curriculum areas, staff will ensure they are sufficiently knowledgeable to teach the specific curriculum for their year group.
- School staff will ensure that gaps in children's knowledge are identified and addressed.
- The schools will aim for children to develop deep learning through developing fluency and providing opportunities for knowledge to be applied.
- Ensure there are key expectations of consistency across the federation.
- Teaching and learning will meet the needs of all children including disadvantaged children, the most able and those with special educational needs and disabilities.

2: Key Elements and Principles
In order to ensure consistent quality across the federation, it is our policy that:

- All lessons or units of learning should have a clear objective which is shared with the children so that they understand what they are building towards.

- The key skills of reading, phonics, writing and number skills will be developed and promoted through all areas of learning.
- There should be an expectation on all children for high quality presentation of work.
- Children should be provided with opportunities to speak, present and listen to others individually, in talk partners and in a larger group.
- There should be an expectation that all children are challenged. This might be through differentiating work, providing a choice of activities or having different expectations for individuals or groups.
- Good behaviours for learning are an essential element of consistent practice. At St John's, all staff will promote metacognition through the animal characters. At St Nic's, school's learning muscles should be displayed and children should understand the importance of applying these.
- As open ended questions support children's learning, teachers should think carefully about and plan for the use of questioning in their teaching.
- High quality feedback will be used throughout lessons to support children's learning. This will include (dependent on children's age and ability):
    - Whole class and small group oral feedback
    - Individual discussions with children
    - Mini-plenaries during a lesson
    - Learning commentaries written by the children at the end of a lesson to express their understanding of their learning
    - Marking (written, verbal, self and peer) used to feedback areas for further development
    - Opportunities to respond to marking through the use of purple pens
- Assessment both formative and summative will be used diagnostically to improve and challenge children's learning.

3: Monitoring

This policy will be monitored in accordance with the federation's monitoring policy. The quality of teaching and learning, alongside the quality of each school's curriculum and analysis of internal and external data will enable the school to make a judgement on the quality of education within each school.