

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 a quality learning and teaching that encourages teachers to cater for a variety of learning styles in order 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 actively greater participation and enjoyment of pupils in their own learning to develop as life long learners able to sustain themselves and help others to sustain continuous improvement in their future.

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 learning and teaching strategies will incorporate appropriate technologies;
- ❖ all curriculum teams will review their learning and teaching strategies annually through self-assessment, review of schemes of learning and through use of allocated departmental time.
- ❖ the school will adopt a 'learning and teaching' focus each year. This year, learning and teaching will be developed according to the needs of individual teaching staff and current needs as identified in the college development plan (e.g. Development areas identified through lesson observations, personal professional development, whole school literacy initiative etc.) The Research and Development L&T Group will lead the developments across the college.
- ❖ teachers will provide rich, dynamic and motivating learning environments where school/class values are an integral part of the day-to-day routine;
- ❖ teachers will vary teaching styles and learning episodes to cater for different learning styles;
- ❖ teachers will provide a balance of individual, group and whole class activities;
- ❖ pupils will be actively involved in decision making within the classroom and encouraged to direct their own learning when relevant and appropriate;

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- ❖ classroom practice will be developmental, open ended and, whenever possible, incorporate `hands-on' and real life experiences;
- ❖ Class activities will actively encourage problem solving and creative thinking skills;
- ❖ 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. They will share good practice across the college through the Research and Development Groups.
- ❖ 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;
- ❖ all staff will have access to the training provided by the Research and Development Group and will be encouraged through self-review to identify their own area of need. In addition, the curriculum leader will work with specific staff in their subject area to support additional training needs.
- ❖ The IRIS Connect (lesson recording equipment and software) will be used by staff to self-analyse and improve classroom practice.

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.

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