




ST SERF'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

OUR APPROACH TO:

**EFFECTIVE, HIGH QUALITY
LEARNING AND
TEACHING**





"The Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) helps our children and young people gain the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for life in the 21st Century."

EDUCATION SCOTLAND 2019

"Young people should be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors."

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT 2009

RATIONALE

At St Serf's we have been developing our approaches to teaching and learning, across all stages; from our Early Years Centre to P7, transition to secondary education and beyond. The St Serf's approach to learning and teaching is designed to ensure that learners are receiving the highest quality learning experiences.

All learners in Scotland are entitled to a coherent, experiential curriculum from 3 to 18. This should be planned and experienced across four contexts:

- Curriculum areas and subjects
- Interdisciplinary learning
- Ethos and life of the school
- Opportunities for personal achievement

This document has been created during a unique and challenging time for our learners, staff, families and community. Staff were consulted and identified their dream lessons, learners and desired outcomes. This was evaluated and used to produce a clear and consistent approach to be used across the whole school. In addition, learner conversations were conducted across the school and findings considered.

AIMS

Our overall aim is to clearly set out the learning and teaching approaches employed at St Serf's Primary to ensure a high-quality approach is offered to all our learners. Our learners will be able to demonstrate this across the four context areas within the Scottish curriculum, by demonstrating depth of knowledge, effectively being able to apply their learning across different contexts and motivated to be the best they can be. As a result of this, we aim to see continued improvements in attainment across the whole school.

OUR VISION AND VALUES

"*St Serf's Approach to Effective, High Quality Learning and Teaching*" is underpinned by our school vision and values.

Our vision is to nurture and inspire every pupil in St Serf's Primary School and ELC to be happy, healthy and achieving now and in the future. We will work in harmony with pupils, families, outside agencies and the wider community to ensure that we will always be the best that we can be.

Our values are:



RESPECT



COMPASSION



AMBITION



HONESTY



RESILIENCE

PUPIL VOICE

Pupils from across the school were given the opportunity to share and reflect on the ways in which they feel they learn best, the structure of effective lessons and the different ways their learning can be supported.

"I learn best when I am involved in the lesson and get to discuss what I am learning with my teacher."

"I like lessons when I do things like in science. I prefer that to lots of writing."

"I enjoy learning about different ways of doing things, different strategies and choices."

"I would like to do more peer assessment than I do just now. I enjoy seeing what other people have done and it helps me with my work too."

"I think feedback from teachers or other pupils should be respectfully honest but not sugar-coated. I like to be clear on what I need to work on next."

"I want to have a good mix of writing and active lessons."

"I like to choose where to work - I can work with my teacher if I need more help, at a team table or at a quiet table."

EFFECTIVE TEACHING

The approaches in this document are to ensure that our learners are receiving a full school experience that is engaging and active, with opportunities to set challenging targets, involves them in the planning process, ensures the learning is pitched at the right level for individual learners and ensures all learners are progressing.

All our staff strive to be approachable, knowledgeable, current, risk-takers and eager to take the learning where our learners want to go. At St Serf's, our teaching practitioners will ensure lessons are planned, well-structured and paced appropriately for learners. Lessons should be creative and engaging to motivate and encourage learners. This will be achieved through the following:

- Clear learning intentions will be shared with learners and they will have the opportunity to discuss success criteria and add their own contribution to ensure success.
- Lessons will be differentiated to support all learners. Support staff to be used effectively to support individuals and small groups.
- Activities and tasks within lessons will be meaningful and used to reinforce the learning taking place.
- Skills that are being developed during the lesson are to be explicitly identified and discussed with learners.
- Learning intentions and success criteria to be revisited throughout the lesson to support learners in being successful.
- Assessment is for Learning (AiFL) strategies to be familiar to learners and used throughout lessons.
- Feedback should be meaningful and different approaches utilised, including using immediate feedback and learners being involved in the process via self or peer assessment.
- At the end of a lesson, it should be evaluated via a plenary to check learning and to assist in establishing next steps.

Practitioners are to be responsive to our learners and provide opportunities for regulation, brain breaks and support during transitions. At St Serf's, all staff will contribute to the fostering of a welcoming environment across the whole school, building positive relationships between staff and learners. Classroom environments should reflect the interests of learners and have obvious links to the contexts currently being taught.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING

Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL) is a planned approach to learning, enabling teachers and learners to make clear connections through exploring links across different subjects or disciplines to enhance learning. These may be short or long blocks of study, based upon experiences and outcomes within specific areas of the curriculum and exploring the connections between the subject matter.

IDL is used at St Serf's to ensure the experiences offered are consistent across the whole school. Teachers plan across stages on a termly basis and contexts used should be relevant to learners and/or linked to relevant local, national or global current issues.

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Play pedagogy is integrating children's play within curricular experiences and giving learners the opportunity to engage in meaningful activities. Helping them to learn about themselves and others, encouraging independence and motivation to learn. At St Serf's we have adopted a play-based approach in the early years but also recognise the importance of play, particularly free play throughout the whole school.

In all stages across the school, children should have regularly opportunities for purposeful and free play.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

At St Serf's we value the importance of using our natural environment to enhance learning and to promote health and well-being. Research suggests that outdoor learning improves learner motivation, engagement and motivation to learn.

Our learners will have regular opportunities to engage in outdoor lessons across the curriculum, in and out of the school environment.

EFFECTIVE LEARNING

Effective learning is when children are actively involved in their learning and development. At St Serf's we encourage our learners to have a voice; feeling safe and comfortable to share their learning and experiences.

Through our school values: respect, honesty, resilience, compassion and ambition we encourage our learners to embrace their learning and celebrate success.

To ensure effective learning is taking place across the whole school, we need to provide opportunities for our learners to:

- Question their learning, to explore and investigate further.
- Build resilience, to increase confidence and to try their hardest.
- Work independently, cooperatively or collaboratively with peers.
- Being able to use and apply knowledge and skills in different contexts.
- Take an active interest in their learning through wider involvement from parent/carers and the local community.
- Be motivated to want to improve performance and take onboard next steps.
- Self or peer assess work to produce meaningful next steps.
- Be able to problem solve, to decide on the best approach to complete a task.
- Feel valued by everyone in the school and that their achievements are being recognised.

This list is not exhaustive and may need to be adapted to support learners and to ensure all are successfully thriving at St Serf's.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

"St Serf's Approach to Effective, High Quality Learning and Teaching" is currently in draft form and under review.

Once finalised, it should continue to be reviewed to ensure it continues to reflect the needs of our school community and current guidelines from the Scottish Government.

Current version: June 2021