



**PACE** مدرسة بيس البريطانية ذ.م.م  
**BRITISH SCHOOL L.L.C.**  
== SHARJAH ==

# TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY

# Teaching and Learning Policy

## INTRODUCTION

At PACE British School (PBS) we believe in the concept of lifelong learning and the idea that both adults and children learn new things every day. We maintain that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone; it should be fun. Through our teaching we equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their lives. We believe that appropriate teaching and learning experiences help children to lead happy and rewarding lives.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

We believe that people learn best in different ways. At our school we provide a rich and varied learning environment that allows children to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential.

Through our teaching we aim to:

- enable children to become confident, resourceful, enquiring and independent learners;
- foster children's self-esteem and help them build positive relationships with other people;
- develop children's self-respect and encourage children to respect the ideas, attitudes, values and feelings of others;
- show respect for all cultures and, in so doing, to promote positive attitudes towards other people;
- enable children to understand their community and help them feel valued as part of this community;
- help children grow into reliable, independent and positive citizens.

## EFFECTIVE LEARNING

We acknowledge that people learn in many different ways and we recognise the need to develop strategies that allow all children to learn in ways that best suit them. The psychologist Howard Gardner identifies seven main areas of intelligence: linguistic, logical / mathematical, visual / spatial, kinaesthetic, musical, interpersonal / group working, and interpersonal/reflective. We take into account these different forms of intelligence when planning teaching and learning styles.

We offer opportunities for children to learn in different ways. These include:

- investigation and problem solving;
- research and finding out;

- group work;
- pair work;
- independent work;
- whole-class work;
- asking and answering questions;
- use of the computer;
- fieldwork and visits to places of educational interest;
- creative activities;
- watching television and responding to musical or recorded material;
- debates, role-plays and oral presentations
- designing and making things;
- participation in athletic or physical activity.

We encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning, to be involved as far as possible in reviewing the way they learn, and to reflect on how they learn – what helps them learn and what makes it difficult for them to learn.

## EFFECTIVE TEACHING

When teaching we focus on motivating the children and building on their skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum.

We base our teaching on our knowledge of the children's level of attainment. Our prime focus is to develop further the knowledge and skills of the children. We strive to ensure that all tasks set are appropriate to each child's level of ability. We give due regard when planning work for children with special educational needs. We have high expectations of all children.

We plan our lessons with clear learning objectives. Children are made aware of these objectives and their progress towards them is regularly reviewed with them. Our lesson plans contain information about the tasks to be set, the resources needed, and the way we assess the children's work. We evaluate all lessons so that we can modify and improve our teaching in the future.

Each of our teachers makes a special effort to establish good working relationships with all children in the class. We treat the children with kindness and respect. We treat them fairly and give them equal opportunity to take part in class activities. All our teachers follow the school policy with regard to discipline and classroom management. We set and agree with children on the class code of conduct. We expect all children to comply with these rules that we jointly devise to promote the best learning opportunities for all. We praise children for their efforts and, by doing so, we 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 for sanctions as outlined in our school behaviour policy.

We ensure that all tasks and activities that the children do are safe. When we plan to take children out of school, we first inform parents and obtain their permission.

We deploy teaching assistants and other adult helpers as effectively as possible. Sometimes they work with individual children and sometimes they work with small groups.

Our classrooms are attractive learning environments. We change displays to ensure that the classroom reflects the topics studied by the children. We ensure that all children have the opportunity to display their best work at some time during the year. We believe that a stimulating environment sets the climate for learning, and an exciting classroom promotes independent use of resources and high-quality work by the children.

All our teachers reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and plan their professional development needs accordingly. We do all we can to support our teachers in developing their skills, so that they can continually improve their practice.

We conduct all our teaching in an atmosphere of trust and respect for all.

## THE ROLE OF THE OWNERS AND SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our owners and SLT determine, support, monitor and review the school policies on teaching and learning. In particular, they:

- support the use of appropriate teaching strategies by allocating resources effectively;
- ensure that the school buildings and premises are best used to support successful teaching and learning;
- monitor teaching strategies in the light of health and safety regulations;
- monitor how effective teaching and learning strategies are in terms of raising pupil attainment;
- ensure that staff development promotes good quality teaching;
- monitor the effectiveness of the school's teaching and learning policies through the school self-review processes. These include reports from subject leaders and the annual SEF and SIP as well as a review of the in-service training sessions attended by our staff.

## THE ROLE OF PARENTS

We believe that parents have a fundamental role to play in helping children to learn. We do all we can to inform parents about what and how their children are learning by:

- sending regular reports to parents in which we explain the progress made by each child and indicate how the child can improve further;
- explaining to parents how they can support their children with homework. We suggest, for example, regular shared reading with very young children, and support for older children with their projects and investigative work;
- holding parents' group meetings to reiterate our school strategies for teaching and sharing experiences and advice.

- holding parental workshops on curriculum areas.

We believe that parents have the responsibility to support their children and the school in implementing school policies. We would like parents to:

- ensure that their child has the best attendance record possible;
- ensure that their child is equipped for school with the correct uniform and PE kit;
- do their best to keep their child healthy and fit to attend school;
- inform school if there are matters outside of school that are likely to affect a child's performance or behaviour at school;
- promote a positive attitude towards school and learning in general;
- fulfil the requirements set out in the home/school agreement.

#### MONITORING AND REVIEW

Signed:



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