

Nursery & Infants Teaching and Learning Policy



St John's College, Cardiff

NURSERY & INFANTS TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY

This policy applies to the following section/s of the School:
Infant School & Nursery.

Version: September 2025

We believe that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience. In both the Nursery and the Infants, we aim to lay firm foundations upon which all further knowledge may be based. We strive to help all the children in our care to develop their individual talents through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum. This policy outlines our approach to teaching, which is the responsibility of all staff in the Nursery and the Infants.

Our Philosophy

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment that they are born. The care and education in our Nursery and Infant department helps children to continue to do this by providing them with meaningful and relevant experiences as they begin to appreciate the global community. We believe that it is crucial to value each child's past experiences and then build upon them. We celebrate the uniqueness of each individual and aim to maximise their enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge, while developing their independence.

We believe that effective teaching and learning can only take place if the children in our care feel happy, secure and valued.

Effective Learning

We offer children different opportunities to learn in different ways and recognise that many children need opportunities to pursue learning at length and in depth. Children need time to consolidate what has been discovered and taught. We revisit topics to reinforce skills and knowledge, adding another layer of understanding each time.

The curriculum includes:

- English/ Language and Literacy including Phonics;
- Mathematics;
- Digital Competence;
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World (Science, Geography, History);
- Physical Development (PE, Outdoor Learning, fine motor skills);
- Personal, Social, and Emotional Development;
- Creative (Art, Music, Drama, Design Technology);
- Religious Education;
- Welsh and Italian (R6 and R7).

Our Nursery and Infant staff plan purposeful activities that are challenging but achievable, based on these areas of learning. We take into account the age and previous experience of the children and their development level. Our planning outlines intended learning and the skills that are to be taught. We aim to ensure that the curriculum is holistic and differentiated and that it meets the needs of individual children. We aim to provide an environment in which all children will flourish; we are committed to providing equality of opportunity, regardless of race, gender, belief, disability and religion.

All our staff:

- listen attentively;
- ask purposeful, open-ended questions;
- give appropriate encouragement and feedback;
- intervene in a sensitive way;
- become involved and work alongside the children, leading activities planned by the teacher;
- differentiate activities to meet the needs of MAT children and those with ALN;
- provide opportunities for the children to learn co-operatively and collaboratively;
- value and affirm the contributions made by the children and accept home languages and experiences;
- encourage children to choose activities and develop independence;
- create an environment whereby all cultures are valued;
- observe, monitor and assess the progress of the children, to inform planning;
- observe, monitor and assess the progress of the children;
- share information with parents and carers, and other professionals across the areas of learning.

Parents

We operate an open door policy and appreciate that partnership with parents is crucial. We aim to create a climate of shared responsibility and mutual respect. We recognise that parents are their child's first educators, and by working in partnership, we can all significantly affect children's achievements, and help them to reach their full potential. We hold two individual Parents' Meetings and a more informal 'Meet the Teacher,' and a written report is sent out in February and July.

We inform parents of their child's learning through the weekly update to parents and the weekly 'What are we learning this week?' sent home by Form Tutors. Homework tasks help support class based learning and reading records enable the sharing of information. Parents can also see what their child has been doing in school through the Nursery and Infant Instagram accounts

Planning

We believe that planning should be shared with all members of staff working with the children. It is the class teacher's responsibility to plan lessons and assign tasks to the supporting staff. When we plan, we take into account the age, experience and developmental needs of the children in our care. We also consider the skills and experience of staff working alongside the teacher in charge.

All curriculum planning within the Nursery and the Infant department is based on the key areas of learning. KUW is split into separate subject areas in R6 and R7 as the children mature. When we plan, we view the curriculum on a long, medium and short-term basis. We ensure that the curriculum is balanced and differentiated to meet the needs of the individual children.

We will ensure that the curriculum builds upon previous experience, allowing for continuity and progression. We assess the learning taking place and evaluate our teaching. We change the curriculum to meet individual needs when appropriate.

Nursery and Infant Appendix contained in Whole School Curriculum Policy

Appendix 1

Nursery and Infant Departments

- In the Nursery and Infants, the children follow a weekly timetable which may be flexible due to the nature of planning and learning at this age.
- The curriculum has been developed to meet the needs of our learners and is based upon guidance from the EYFS framework (ENG), Curriculum for Wales and the National Curriculum (ENG).
- The N&I curriculum divides pupil learning and development into the following key areas:

R6 and R7	R5 and Nursery
English including Phonics	Language and Literacy including Phonics
Mathematics	Mathematics
Science	} Knowledge and Understanding of the World
Geography	
History	
Computing	
Art	} Creative Development
DT	
PSE	PSE
Music including Singing**	Music including Singing **
Drama **	Drama **
PE **	Physical Development including PE **
Religious Education **	Religious Education **
Welsh **	Welsh **
Italian **	

- The subjects labelled ** are taught by specialist teachers either from within the Department, from the Senior School, or employed specifically for their specialism.
- Skills Overviews and Schemes of Work map the provision of skills across the year groups and form the basis of our Curriculum planning. There is flexibility at a medium and short term planning level to cover skills in changeable topics, activities and experiences to engage pupils and capture their interest in learning.
- Pupil progress is monitored through teacher feedback, assessment and tracking. Any pupils highlighted as needing further support, especially with their Literacy skills, are offered the opportunity of specialist tuition.
- Pupils are taught in one mixed ability class for their specific age with the exception of Nursery that may have R3 and R4 pupils depending on admissions. Nursery teaching and learning is adapted for the different age groups as necessary.
- A weekly overview is provided to parents so they are aware of their child's learning and may support as needed.
- In addition to their timetabled PE lessons, R7 pupils have a two-week block of swimming which is taken during other subject time.
- The personal and social development of pupils is the responsibility of all staff though the discrete Jigsaw learning programme is delivered predominantly by the Form Tutor. This scheme runs throughout the school, reflects the School's aims and ethos, and is adapted to suit the needs of the pupils.