

SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



ORCHARDS JUNIOR SCHOOL

POLICY FOR TEACHING & LEARNING

REVIEWED SEPTEMBER 2026



1. Aims

This policy aims to:

Explain how we'll create an environment at Orchards where pupils learn best and love to do so

- Through collaboration and our explicit culture, we ensure everyone is committed to achieving a consistent approach to teaching and learning at Orchards
- Promote high expectations and raise standards of achievement for all pupils in Orchards
- Involve pupils, parents/carers and the wider school community in pupils' learning and development
- Promote consistency across the trust
- **Improvement:** Identifies areas for growth and supports staff development.
- **Achievement:** Aims to improve student outcomes and engagement.
-

2. Our guiding principles

Pupils learn best at our Orchards when they:

- Have their basic physical needs met
- Feel secure, safe and valued
- Feel a sense of belonging to the group
- Are engaged and motivated
- Can see the relevance of what they are doing
- Know what outcome is intended
- Can link what they are doing to other experiences
- Understand the task
- Have the physical space and the tools needed
- Have access to the necessary materials
- Are not disrupted or distracted by others
- Can work with others or on their own, depending on the task
- Are guided, taught or helped in appropriate ways at appropriate times
- Can practise what they are learning
- Can apply the learning in both familiar and new contexts
- Can persevere when learning is hard
- Can manage their emotions if things are not going well
- Recognise that all learners make mistakes and mistakes can help us learn

3. Roles and responsibilities

Teaching and learning in Orchards is a shared responsibility, and everyone in our community has an important role to play.

This is how we will create the above conditions for pupils' learning at all times:

3.1 Teachers

Teachers at Orchards will:

- Follow the expectations for teaching and professional conduct as set out in the [Teachers' Standards](#)
- Actively engage parents/carers in their child's learning
- Update parents/carers on pupils' progress leading to an annual written report on their child's progress

3.2 Support staff

Support staff will:

- Know pupils well and differentiate support to meet their individual learning needs
- Support teaching and learning with flexibility and resourcefulness
- Use agreed assessment for learning strategies
- Use effective marking and feedback as required
- Engage in providing inspiring lessons and learning opportunities
- Feedback observations of pupils to teachers
- Ask questions to make sure they've understood expectations for learning
- Identify and use resources to support learning
- Have high expectations and celebrate achievement
- Demonstrate and model themselves as learners

3.3 Subject leaders

Subject Leaders at Orchards will:

- Support the creation of well-sequenced curriculum plans that build knowledge and skills
- Sequence lessons in a way that allows pupils to make good progress from their starting points
- Use their budget effectively to resource their subject, providing teachers with necessary resources
- Drive improvement in their subject working with teachers to identify any challenges
- Moderate progress across their subject by, for example, systematically reviewing progress against a range of evidence and reviewing qualitative and quantitative performance data
- Improve on weaknesses identified in their monitoring activities
- Create and share clear intentions for their subject/phase
- Encourage teachers to share ideas, resources and good practice

3.4 Senior leaders

Senior leaders will:

- Have a clear and ambitious vision for providing high-quality, inclusive education to all
- Celebrate achievement and have high expectations for everyone
- Hold staff and pupils to account for their teaching and learning
- Plan and evaluate strategies to secure high-quality teaching and learning across the school
- Manage resources to support high-quality teaching and learning
- Provide support and guidance to other staff through coaching and mentoring
- Input and monitor the impact of Professional Growth opportunities to improve staff's practice and subject knowledge
- Address underachievement and intervene promptly

3.5 Pupils

Pupils will:

- Meet expectations for good behaviour for learning at all times, respecting the rights of others to learn
- Be curious, ambitious, engaged and confident learners
- Know their targets and how to improve
- Put maximum effort and focus into their work
- Complete home learning activities as required

3.6 Parents and carers

Parents and carers of pupils at Orchards will:

- Encourage their child as a learner
- Make sure their child is ready and able to learn every day
- Support good attendance
- Participate in discussions about their child's progress and attainment
- Communicate with the school to share information promptly
- Support and give importance to home learning

3.7 Governors

Governors at our school will:

- Monitor that resources and funding are allocated effectively to support the school's approach to teaching and learning
- Monitor the impact of teaching and learning strategies on pupils' progress and attainment
- Monitor the effectiveness of this policy and hold the headteacher to account for its implementation

4. Planning

Lessons will be planned well to ensure good short, medium and long-term progress through year group teams who will allocate the appropriate responsibility to each member of the team..

5. Learning environment

Learning environments will be arranged to promote learning through:

- Clearly labelled, comfortable and attractive zones such as reading corners and quiet areas
- Material pupils have previously learned about and can identify
- Accessible resources for learning such as books, worksheets and other equipment
- A seating layout that allows everyone to see the board and participate
- Displays that celebrate and support pupils' learning

6. Adaptive teaching

Teaching and learning at our school will take the backgrounds, needs and abilities of all pupils into account. We will differentiate or adapt learning to cater to the needs of all of our pupils, including Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), Pupils with English as an additional language (EAL) and Disadvantaged pupils

- Using support staff effectively to provide extra support
- Working with our SEN co-ordinator (SENCO), our pupils with SEND, and their parents/carers to establish the appropriate level of material to support these pupils to make good progress
- Using ability groupings for certain subjects where appropriate
- Providing writing frames and word banks

7. Home learning

Home learning, or homework, will support pupils to make the link between what they have learnt in school and the wider world. It's most effective when done in a supportive, secure environment, with focused time set aside.

Home learning will be reasonable in challenge and length, and its purpose will be clearly outlined alongside each task.

8. Marking and feedback

Feedback will clearly explain to pupils what they're doing well and what they need to do next to continue to improve their work. Please see the marking & feedback policy

9. Assessment, recording and reporting

We will track pupils' progress using a combination of formative and summative assessment – see Assessment Policy We will provide regular targets for pupils, and provide termly verbal reports against these at parents' evenings. Pupils will receive a written report at the end of each academic year.

10. Monitoring and evaluation

We will monitor teaching and learning in Orchards to make sure that all of our pupils make the best possible progress from their starting points through our Total quality Management process.

Staff use the TQM to monitor and evaluate the impact of teaching on pupils' learning through:

- Conducting learning walks
- Reviewing marking and feedback
- Termly pupil progress meetings
- Planning scrutinies
- Book scrutinies

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed every year.



SPARKLE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST