

## Teaching and Learning

Here at MCPA, we develop resilient, resourceful and responsible learners who have the confidence, skills and attitudes to be successful life-long learners. Through a positive learning culture, we foster our children's love of learning and create a culture of excellence and inclusivity. Pupils leave MCPA inspired and challenged knowing they can reach their full potential.

This policy outlines our commitment to effective teaching strategies, continuous assessment, and personalised learning. In order to achieve this, we provide a high quality learning environment, expert staff (including subject specialists) and a well-balanced curriculum with an emphasis on real-world learning opportunities. We recognise that learning doesn't just happen in the classroom and therefore provide children with additional learning experiences such as: trips, visitors and external workshops. We are fortunate to be located within easy reach of a variety of interesting and educational places which we use to enhance the curriculum and stimulate learning. Teachers plan a minimum of one visit/visitor per term with a range of experiences being provided across the year.

We use eight teaching principles to underpin all teaching and learning. These ensure all staff focus on delivering high-quality, effective and adaptive practice. These principles are based upon: adaptive teaching where learning is continuously assessed and evaluated, research related to how the human brain retains information, research into classroom practices of teachers whose students show better than expected progress and findings from studies that tested learning strategies with primary aged students.



## **Knowledge Organisers**

To support us to deliver a knowledge rich curriculum, we use Knowledge Organisers.

A Knowledge Organiser is a document that contains key facts and information that children need to have for a basic knowledge and understanding of their topic. All MCPA Knowledge Organisers will include the essential facts about the topic, usually laid out in easy-to-digest chunks; key vocabulary or technical terms and their meanings; images such as maps, timelines or diagrams; and famous quotations, if relevant. Giving children the basic facts at the beginning of a topic helps them to see the bigger picture.

All MCPA Knowledge Organisers have an accompanying 'end-of-topic' quiz which tests the children's understanding and retention of key facts about the current and previous topics.

## **Effective feedback**

Feedback exists in many forms (eg. teacher marking of exercise books, whole class marking sheets, verbal feedback, peer and self assessment), but what matters is what students do with it. Effective feedback should:

- Be frequent and timely
- Always generate action and should be more work for the recipient than the donor.
- Be specific and focused on the most prominent areas to improve.
- Be accompanied by support in how to be successful and the next step
- Allow time for DIRT (deliberate improvement and reflection time) to cultivate an environment of redrafting work in red pen.