

# Characteristics of Effective Learning Policy

## 1 Introduction

*“The ways in which the child engages with other people and their environment... underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain and effective and motivated learner.”*

*“The Unique Child reaches out to relate to people and things through the characteristics of effective learning, which move through all areas of learning.”*

(Development Matters for EYFS – Early Education, 2012).

The characteristics of effective learning underpin the seven areas of learning and development. (EYFS March 2012).

The three identified characteristics of effective learning are:

- **Playing and exploring:** children investigate and experience things, and ‘have a go’;
- **Active learning:** children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements (hands-on);
- **Creating and thinking critically:** children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

Reception class staff must report on the characteristics of effective learning and share this with Year 1 staff and the child’s parents/carers.

## 2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1 The aim of this policy is to make it clear about the importance of the characteristics of effective learning and how practitioners at Grangewood Independent School should link these to observation, planning and assessment.
- 2.2 The objective of the policy is that all staff at Grangewood are clear on their responsibilities relating to the characteristics of effective learning and understand how to observe and record these.

## 3 Characteristics of effective learning

The Development Matters guidance shows how the characteristics and the seven areas of learning and development (three prime and four specific) are all interconnected.

- 3.1 As a team, the EYFS staff at Grangewood will ensure that the provision offered enables children to demonstrate the quality of the characteristics of effective learning as follows:
  - Playing and exploring:
    - (i) finding out and exploring;
    - (ii) playing with what they know;
    - (iii) being willing to have a go.

- Active learning:
  - (i) being involved and concentrating;
  - (ii) wanting to try again;
  - (iii) enjoying achieving what they set out to do.
- Creating and thinking critically:
  - (i) having their own ideas;
  - (ii) making links;
  - (iii) choosing ways to do things.

3.2 We will use the guidance in Development Matters to observe how a child is learning.

3.3 We will use the ideas under the *Unique Child* heading to support what we can do as practitioners to support children as learners relating to the characteristics of effective learning.

3.4 We will use the ideas under the *Positive relationships* heading to support what we can do as practitioners to support children as learners relating to the characteristics of effective learning.

3.5 We will use the ideas under the *Enabling environments* heading to support what we as practitioners can provide to support children as learners relating to the characteristics of effective learning.

#### 4 Links to observation assessment and planning

4.1 We will make links between observations, assessments and the characteristics of effective learning through our planning.

4.2 Reception class staff will complete an EYFS profile for each child which will include short statements on how they approach learning under the headings of the characteristics of effective learning.

#### 5 Staff training

All staff will be provided with training to support their understanding of how their role will support the characteristics of effective learning.

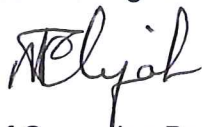
#### 6 Monitoring and review

6.1 This policy was agreed and implemented in July 2013.

6.2 The Governing Body undertakes a review of this policy every two years.

6.3 There will be on-going monitoring of this policy as some aspects may require amending/updating before the review date should there be any incidents which take place relating to it that give cause for concern.

Signed:



Member of Governing Body:

Date:

25/02/16

Chair of Governors:

Date:

Next Review Date:

July 2017

Written: July 2013  
Reviewed: July 2015