



ST. ILLTYD'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY

BACKGROUND

This policy has been constructed with full consultation of the Teaching and Learning PLC made up of representatives from all departments and also with the school Learner Voice Group. This policy has been shared with the SLT and the school governors.

PRINCIPLES

- Teaching and Learning are at the core of all activities at St. Illtyd's Catholic High School.
- All our students are expected to achieve their full potential and become equipped for adult life.
- Learning is an active process of making sense and making connections. It implies change and progress as we acquire skills competencies, knowledge, judgement and understanding of concepts.
- Our practice will:
 1. Be inclusive. We commit to do everything possible to meet the needs of each individual, to inspire young people to learn and to grow personally and spiritually.
 2. Provide a consistent, varied and exciting learning community which challenges us all to extend ourselves further and grow in the love of Christ.
- Continuous Professional Development for all staff will play a key role in developing individual and team skills. We will monitor the quality of Teaching and Learning and disseminate good practice.

VALUES

St. Illtyd's Catholic High School is fully committed to ensuring that all its main stakeholders including parents, pupils, staff and support staff play a vital role in

deciding the main contributing factors that contribute to effective teaching and learning. We at St. Illtyd's believe that the key characteristics are:

- Positive pupil/teacher relationships
- Effective praise and rewards
- Exciting, varied and motivational activities in the classroom
- Clear boundaries for all pupils

PRACTICE

St. Illtyd's Catholic High School has high expectations of its staff and students alike. As a result, we expect staff to ensure classroom practice is as effective as possible. Staff are encouraged to be creative and to try new ideas in order to further develop their practice and to enhance learning of our students. St. Illtyd's has a series of expectations in terms of teaching and learning that we consider to be essential for effective learning. These are as follows:

1. POSITIVE PUPIL/TEACHER RELATIONSHIPS

- Delivery by the teacher is enthusiastic and based upon a wealth of subject knowledge and expertise
- Use of positive language by the teacher
- Give respect and receive respect
- Welcome pupils
- Involve all pupils even the shy and quieter ones
- Reinforce pupil independence
- Listen to pupils and respect their opinion
- Remain relaxed but vigilant
- Deal sensitively with lateness
- Retain a sense of humour
- Preface requests with "thank you" so that the listener hears the acknowledgement before the instruction "thank you for putting your rubbish in the bin"
- Body language – eye contact/no pointy fingers!

- Remember Bill Gribble “ I hear what you are saying”
- Support information with anecdotes to help make learning more realistic

2. PRAISE AND REWARDS

- Give positive responses to incorrect answers identifying correct aspects
- Use praise more than chastise
- Make effective use of departmental reward system
- Put smiley faces on the board
- Make use of raffle tickets
- Send home praise postcards/letters
- Positive classroom environment/meaningful posters/pupils work
- Don't give whole class punishments
- Catch them being good !
- The learning process is a key focus and is celebrated.

3. RANGE OF EXCITING,VARIED AND MOTIVATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE CLASSROOM

- Lessons to be structured to enable active engagement for all students
- Lessons to include a good starter activity to engage the learner
- Lesson content ,structure pace and activities will take account of the ability of every student and will therefore be suitably challenging for all.
- A range of appropriate resources will be used to stimulate, support and engage learners including extension and project work.
- Students are supported to look for connections between subjects and to develop their problem solving and thinking skills.

- Students are given time to reflect upon their learning in terms of what they have achieved and the learning process.
- Students are given opportunities to lead the lesson and to set the learning objectives whenever possible
- Work completed in lessons will receive verbal and /or written formative feedback.
- Lessons will take account of the variety of learning styles and experiences of our students and will therefore show variety in teaching methods and student activities.

4. CLEAR BOUNDARIES

- Teachers provide a secure learning environment, judging effectively the use of the school's Positive Behaviour Policy and work to establish positive relationships with and between students.
- Apply rules fairly, firmly and consistently
- Take time at the start of lessons to establish firm rules and clear boundaries.
- Apply consistent routines in lessons, offering a secure framework e.g. WALT,WILF, starter,plenary.

St. Iltyd's Catholic High School aims to support staff by providing them with a termly Learning Bulletin where good practice can be shared amongst us all.

Review

The Headteacher, SLT, Inclusion Manager and staff will review this policy in the Spring/Summer Term 2013.

June 2012