



## Quality First Teaching at Heathside School

We promote highly effective learning and teaching for all students and have identified some key priorities in order to raise standards still further. These are:

- Differentiated, challenging and inspiring lessons for all
- Consistent use of homework which extends learning
- Use of high-level thinking skills and challenging questions
- Feedback and assessment which moves learning forward
  - Active, inquisitive, independent learners
  - More 'risk-taking' in lessons
- Teachers and Teaching Assistants working together effectively

All members of staff share the responsibility for ensuring that high standards are maintained at all times.

During lessons students flourish in an atmosphere which is safe, supportive, calm and positive. Well-prepared, stimulating lessons generate good behaviour and earn respect.

In order to ensure that the highest standards of teaching and learning are maintained, we expect that staff will:

- be fair, firm and consistent
- expect to give respect in order to gain respect in return
  - treat everyone as an individual and with dignity
    - be positive and friendly
- have very high expectations of students and set high standards.
  - arrive before the class and begin every lesson on time
    - be prepared for every lesson
- keep everyone engaged, challenged and interested in a variety of tasks
  - set appropriate homework according to the homework timetable
- keep an attractive, clean and tidy room with inspiring displays for learning
  - ensure all activities are fruitful and have a learning outcome
  - ensure that every lesson has the HOT 6 at its foundation
- ensure the VLE has up to date useful resources for the students to use and revise from
- seek every relevant opportunity to engage children with the iPads when these are allocated to your curriculum area

Teachers aim to deliver good and outstanding lessons by using the 'HOT 6' (Heathside Outstanding Teaching). These are explained below:

**Pitch:** Our teachers plan lessons to ensure that students of all abilities, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, are able to access what is being taught while being suitably challenged. To facilitate this, teachers and teaching assistants work together to meet the needs of individuals in the classroom. They use a variety of approaches and activities to meet a range of learning styles including extension tasks and more challenging questioning for more able students. Similarly, homework is set according to students' learning needs and is designed to build upon or consolidate learning in lessons. We may also set students in particular curriculum areas.

**Behaviour:** Our ethos of mutual respect and high expectations result in an inclusive and orderly learning environment where all students have the opportunity to succeed. The school has a clear policy for behaviour which is enforced consistently while paying due regard to the needs of individual students. Underpinning this is the strength of the relationships between students and teachers and amongst the students themselves.

**Expert:** Heathside benefits from highly-qualified staff with excellent subject knowledge. Our teachers seek to inspire and motivate all learners and create memorable learning experiences, including through the use of homework. We are committed to developing students' key skills in reading, writing, oracy and numeracy across the curriculum.

**Buzz:** We believe that learning should be both engaging and enjoyable. Our teachers design lessons to include stimulating activities that promote high levels of engagement and provide students with opportunity to learn actively rather than passively. We seek to foster students' skills as independent learners as well as providing many opportunities to collaborate and learn with their peers.

**Assessment for Learning:** Effective assessment is at the heart of our practice. During lessons our teachers use questioning and other strategies to elicit students' understanding, clarify any misconceptions and judge which students are ready to progress to the next stage in their learning. Students are assessed regularly and accurately. They are provided with clear feedback as to the level at which they are working, what they need to do to improve and how to do so. This may be given orally or through marking. We believe that feedback can be a powerful tool to improve the learning and so provide opportunities for students to reflect on their progress and respond to feedback given by their teachers and peers.

**Progress:** We expect all students to progress in their learning in every lesson on every day. This is achieved through pitching learning activities so that they meet the needs of all students, ensuring a positive climate for learning, designing learning experiences which engage students and using assessment effectively. Our teachers also ensure that lesson time is well used so that students can make rapid gains. Lessons are designed so that students have opportunity to reflect on the progress that they have made towards learning objectives. We support all students in reaching their potential across the curriculum helping them meet or exceed predictions.