

LEARNING STATEMENT

As a place of safety, happiness and learning, St Mark's School is committed to encouraging effective learning for all.
We see learning as:

- **A process natural to children**
 - *so we will value children's experiences outside school and build on what they already know and can do*
- **Arising out of curiosity and asking questions and often arising from structured play and exploration**
 - *so we will aim to make teaching enquiry based and, where possible, give space for self directed questions and activity*
- **A creative endeavour requiring inventive and lateral thinking**
 - *so we will begin to plan for the teaching of explicit thinking skills to encourage children to make connections and experience 'wonder' in the course of units of work*
- **Identifying and solving problems**
 - *so, where possible, we will plan to provide problem solving activities as a normal part of everyday teaching*
- **An enjoyable and engaging experience**
 - *so we will seek to enhance learning activities as much as possible with visits, visitors, work outside the classroom and interesting, innovative approaches*
- **A balance of skills and knowledge**
 - *so we will not just focus on teaching the content of the curriculum, but the skills necessary to learn and necessary for life*
- **A different process for everyone**
 - *so we will try to acknowledge the different ways in which children learn and adapt our teaching and resources accordingly*
- **Building on previous learning, experiences and levels of skill**
 - *so we will plan for learning based on children's existing skill levels, previous experiences and achievements*
- **Lifelong**
 - *so we will be committed to continuous professional development for all staff and let children know about our own reading and learning*
 - *and we will aim to equip children with the basic skills necessary for lifelong learning*
- **Directly related to brain development and functioning**
 - *so we will try to keep up with neurological research and its applications for teaching and learning*
- **Linked to diet**
 - *so we will encourage children to drink water throughout the day and eat healthy brain -friendly foods*
- **Most effective in a positive environment and when self esteem is strong**
 - *so we endeavour to treat all children equally and positively, focusing on the promotion of positive behaviour and rewards for: conduct, achievement, effort, improvement and participation and the demonstration of the 15 Christian Values at the heart of school life*
- **Multi-sensory**
 - *so we will provide experiences, resources and activities that enable children to engage in learning using all their senses*
- **Often purpose driven**
 - *so we will involve children where ever possible in assessing their own performance and setting their own targets for learning*
- **Life affirming, life changing and potentially world changing**
 - *so we will always work with high expectations of ourselves and the children in our care and encourage children to dream, to strive for excellence and to imagine a bright and bold future*

