



Teaching and Learning



Date of Policy: April 2017 Review Date: April 2019

Introduction

At LEO Academy Trust, above all, our aim is to develop children who are prepared in every way for education and life beyond our school. We are fully committed to ensuring that LEO Academy Trust schools are those where every child realises their potential. In order to achieve this aim, our teacher development programme equips staff with the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to deliver lessons of consistently the highest standard.



In every lesson, teachers and teaching assistants use 'learning lenses'. Learning lenses enable teachers to view the most important features of their teaching with a sharper focus and greater clarity. Checking, marking and assessment are key factors that affect pupil progress and are central to every lesson.

In every lesson at LEO Academy, teacher and teaching assistants use our learning lenses, 'Excellent Learners' profile and 'learner lanyards', as well as strategies such as WAGOLL to ensure consistently excellent teaching, learning and progress:

Progress

The most important measure of teaching is its impact on progress. The best progress is highly visible, measurable, rapid and sustained across all subjects. This lens gives our teachers the final check as to whether the efforts of their teaching bring benefits in learning. The other six lenses are all factors that affect progress. The progress lens is, therefore, used in conjunction with all of the other lenses. Teachers explore and use each lens in relation to how it promotes and helps them to achieve good and outstanding progress for all of our children.

Assessment

Whilst it is possible to make progress in almost anything, the assessment lens helps teachers to plan for progress for individuals in the right things, to the right, challenging standard. This lens concentrates mostly on lesson planning and its importance in focusing lessons on individual's needs and ensuring that outstanding differentiation is at the heart of every lesson.

Checking

The checking lens helps teachers focus on the signs of progress during lessons. By continually checking on progress, teachers can maximise it and reshape teaching as required. Many methods of checking progress and reshaping of lessons can delay the progress of some pupils because they are too reliant on whole-class techniques. This lens helps teachers explore ways to check progress and reshape teaching without interrupting the learning of others during the checks. Excellent checking and reshaping has a notable impact on progress. For this lens to be effective, teachers (and/or teaching assistants) should aim to interact with every pupil, every lesson. Guided groups may form as a result of checking; they will not necessarily be planned for in advance.

Marking

Progress is affected by the quality and frequency of feedback. Consistency of quality feedback helps pupils to know what they have done well and helps them to improve. This lens offers an evaluation tool for teachers to assess the quality of their feedback as seen in the visible progress that emerges as a result. Marking Response Time (MRT) is regularly built into lessons each week as appropriate.

Basic skills

Best thought of as the 'silent objective' of every lesson, the basic skills lens helps teachers to maximise opportunities for developing writing, mathematics and reading in every lesson.

Attitudes

The attitudes lens helps teachers to focus on the learning skills and behaviours of pupils. Excellent teaching promotes, almost intuitively, the right balance between academic learning and the attitudes required for competent learners. This lens helps teachers to identify the traits of a competent learner and ways in which the traits can be promoted in all lessons.

Through our English, mathematics, science, computing and integrated curriculum lessons, we encourage our children to use and develop the following learner attitudes through our LEO Academy 'Excellent Learners' programme. We believe that, by developing such learner attitudes alongside an excellent grasp of basic English and maths skills, our children will be equipped with the skills and attributes needed to thrive in the changing landscape of the twenty first century.

We hope our teaching will allow all children to become excellent learners.

Evaluation

Termly lesson observations and frequent learning walks, work scrutiny and discussions with pupils will be undertaken by senior leaders to ensure that the use of each learning lens is leading to teaching, learning and progress of a consistently high quality throughout the school.

Guidance for teachers and teaching assistants

This policy should be read alongside Chris Quigley's teaching development programme manual on 'learning lenses' as well as our Marking Policy and all subject policies.

