



## INDEPENDENT LEARNING STATEMENT

*This statement supports the school vision*

**SEEKING** ↪ **SERVING** ↪ **SOARING** ↪

The school aims to promote independent learning so that children can maximise their learning potential and become lifelong learners. This is achieved by enabling children to:

- develop an enquiring mind
- acquire knowledge and skills through their own efforts
- develop self-evaluation skills
- respond to and build on feedback
- seek challenges

### Teachers and teaching assistants promote independent learning by:

- demonstrating the attributes of a growth mindset by showing an enthusiasm for learning and how perseverance and making mistakes can help learning
- helping children develop the characteristics of effective learning
- collaborating with pupils to set shared learning goals
- providing an enabling environment so that children can access resources to help their learning
- giving pupils choices so they can follow their own interests and preferences
- asking good open ended questions
- encouraging group work so that learners can learn from each other
- encouraging self and peer editing before work is handed in
- giving constructive feedback both orally and through marking
- giving children time to look at work that has been marked in order to review and reflect and improve their work
- helping pupils to make sense of what they have learned
- encouraging children to access their own resources and tools for learning
- making sure classrooms are organised so that pupils can access the resources they need independently
- promoting and emphasising the importance of good listening for successful independent learning using resources such as A Minute to Listen

Teachers and teaching assistants foster the development in pupils of the Characteristics of Effective Learning (as listed in Development Matters in EYFS)

#### **An independent learner is engaged...**

- shows interest and curiosity
- seeks a challenge
- initiates activities
- shows a 'can do' attitude
- takes a risk, engaging in new experiences, and learning by trial and error

#### **An independent learner is motivated....**

- maintains focus

- shows high levels of energy, fascination
- persists with activity when challenges occur
- shows a belief that more effort or a different approach will pay off
- bounces back after difficulties

**An independent learner enjoys achieving what they set out to do by**

- showing satisfaction in meeting their own goals
- being proud of how they accomplished something – not just the end result
- enjoying meeting challenges for their own sake rather than external rewards or praise

**An independent learner shows creative and critical thinking by**

- thinking of ideas
- finding ways to solve problems
- finding new ways to do things
- making predictions
- testing their ideas
- developing ideas of grouping, sequences, cause and effect

**An independent learner chooses ways to do things by**

- planning, making decisions about how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal
- checking how well their activities are going
- changing strategy as needed
- reviewing how well the approach worked

**Pupils**

The school has developed a Pupil Code of Conduct which includes key characteristics of an active independent learner linked to School Values. This is displayed in every classroom.

**Pupil Code of Conduct**

**Pupils will respect everyone in the school community and**

- be ready to learn and let others learn
- be polite to adults and each other
- take care of school property and the school environment
- walk quietly around school
- follow the school uniform, lunchtime, playtime and off site visit rules

**Pupils will behave with integrity and compassion to**

- take care of each other
- be honest
- do the right thing, even when this is not easy
- sort out disagreements without hitting or saying mean things
- understand and accept individual differences

**Pupils will be courageous, hopeful learners who**

- take responsibility for their learning
- ask thoughtful questions
- make mistakes
- persevere
- work hard enough to find out how good they can really be

Pupils are awarded Independent Learner Awards by teachers and teaching assistants to recognise and celebrate the characteristics of a growth mindset and active independent learning. These awards form part of the school's Good Behaviour Policy.

**Parents**

Parents are encouraged to promote and value independence in learning; individual reports on this aspect of pupil progress, with next step targets, are provided three times a year.

*January 2020*