



Barnsole Primary School

Teaching & Learning Policy



Maritime
Academy
Trust

Date of Last Review:	September 2025
Date of Next Review:	September 2026

Vision and Commitment

At Barnsole Primary School, our vision is to empower every child, nurture diversity, and foster lifelong curiosity and resilience. We aspire to provide a holistic and inclusive education that ensures high aspirations and outcomes for all learners. We aim to create a supportive, enriching environment where every child feels valued and inspired to achieve their full potential.

Teaching and Learning Approach

Our approach to teaching and learning is underpinned by the Adaptive Teaching Model, which ensures that all children, regardless of their starting points, can achieve the same high standards. We integrate evidence-based pedagogies, including Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures and Retrieval Practice, to foster a supportive and inclusive learning environment.

Key Principles of Teaching and Learning at Barnsole

Inclusivity and High Expectations

- All children are provided with equitable opportunities to succeed.
- Teachers plan for the diverse needs of learners, addressing potential barriers and adapting lessons to ensure inclusivity.

Adaptive Teaching Framework

- Lessons are structured around five key stages: Planning, Recall and Recap, Link Learning and Build, Feedback and Adapt, and Deepen and Secure.
- Teachers use ongoing assessments and flexible strategies to dynamically meet the needs of all learners.

Collaborative Learning

- **Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures** are embedded to enhance teamwork, communication, and individual accountability.
 - Examples of Kagan structures include:
 - *Rally Robin*: Students take turns sharing answers or ideas with a partner.
 - *Think Pair Share*: Students think about a question, discuss their thoughts with a partner, and then share with the class.
 - *Quiz-Quiz-Trade*: Students quiz each other on a topic using question cards, then trade cards and repeat with different peers.
 - These activities promote active participation, mutual support, and a positive classroom atmosphere.

Focus on Fundamental Skills

- A strong emphasis is placed on reading, writing, and mathematics as foundational skills.
- Early interventions and additional support, such as phonics and numeracy sessions, are provided for children requiring extra help.

Holistic Development

- Beyond academics, we nurture emotional intelligence, physical well-being, and social skills.
- We promote curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving to prepare children for lifelong learning.

Subject-Specific Approaches

Phonics and Early Reading

- We follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised program to provide systematic phonics instruction from Nursery onwards.
- Children engage with matched Collins Big Cat reading books to practice and reinforce their phonics knowledge.
- Regular assessments identify children needing additional support, provided through tailored “Keep Up” or “Catch Up” sessions.

Reading

- We aim to cultivate a love of reading by exposing children to diverse and enriching texts.
- As children progress, they transition from phonics to whole-class reading sessions using the Steps to Read scheme, which builds vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Writing

- Writing instruction begins in the Early Years Foundation Stage, focusing on letter formation and phonics application.
- Across Key Stages, children are taught to write creatively, accurately, and for various purposes, with opportunities for editing and reflection.

Mathematics

- In Early Years, foundational skills such as number recognition and spatial reasoning are developed.
- Key Stages 1 and 2 build fluency in arithmetic, problem-solving, and conceptual understanding, with an emphasis on connecting learning to real-world applications.
- We use the White Rose Maths scheme to ensure a comprehensive and consistent approach to mathematics, fostering deep understanding and problem-solving abilities.

Pedagogical Strategies

Retrieval Practice

- Retrieval Practice is a cornerstone of our teaching methodology, aimed at strengthening memory retention and deepening understanding.
 - Strategies include:
 - Low-stakes quizzes.
 - Discussion prompts that revisit prior learning.
 - Summarizing activities to consolidate knowledge.
- This approach ensures that students regularly engage with previously taught material, enabling them to build strong, long-term memory networks.

Scaffolding and Modelling

- Structured support is tailored to learners’ needs, gradually reducing assistance as confidence and competence grow.
- Teachers demonstrate problem-solving strategies and guide students through practical examples.

Feedback

- Feedback is timely, specific, and constructive, guiding students toward achieving their learning goals.
- Self-assessment and peer feedback are encouraged to promote metacognition and reflective learning.

Collaboration and Communication

- Group tasks and discussions foster teamwork and the exchange of ideas.
 - Communication skills are developed through activities that emphasize listening, speaking, and presenting.
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Assessment for Learning

Assessment is integral to our teaching and learning approach. Teachers use formative and summative assessments to:

- Identify gaps in learning and address misconceptions.
 - Inform lesson planning and adapt teaching strategies.
 - Celebrate progress and set ambitious targets for every child.
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Parental Engagement

We believe in a strong partnership with parents and carers to support children's learning. Regular updates, workshops, and resources are provided to help families engage with their children's education at home.

Conclusion

At Barnsole Primary School, we are committed to delivering an inclusive, enriching, and effective educational experience. By fostering a love for learning, building strong foundational skills, and nurturing holistic development, we prepare our children to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.