**St. Patrick’s P.S. Hilltown**

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**Classroom environment and display policy**

**April 2021**

**Progress through partnership**

**Classroom Environment and Display Policy**

**Rationale:**

The visual appearance of St Patrick’s Primary School contributes to our image and ethos. At St Patrick’s, classroom environments support and enrich the learning of all children. As well as being vibrant and welcoming, the classroom environment can be a learning tool and a way of engaging children. It supports, promotes and celebrates learning. It creates a sense of ownership and builds ‘community’. An effective classroom environment is an interactive resource, supporting teaching, learning and assessment.

**Aims:**

The classroom environment will:

* Be bright, stimulating and welcoming to children and visitors
* Celebrate children’s achievements in all areas of the curriculum and boost self-esteem and confidence
* Be an interactive resource to support teaching, learning and assessment effectively
* Support children’s learning by providing prompts, models, good examples and information which can be used on a daily basis
* Provide prompts and examples which are referred to, added to and updated regularly so they don’t become ‘wallpaper’
* Develop children’s ownership through their involvement in the development of their working environment
* Enable children, staff and visitors to gain an insight into the activities being undertaken throughout the school
* Support children’s understanding of where they are in their learning and what they need to do next
* Reflect recent, current or impending learning, showing work in progress as well as completed work

**Classroom:**

* The classroom layout is flexible and changes to meet the needs of the children and the curriculum
* The classroom is tidy, well organised, with accessible labelled resources to facilitate independent learning
* The classroom environment supports teaching and learning at an appropriate level for the age/ability of the children
* A daily visual/written timetable for the children’s reference is displayed in F.S. and KS1.
* The Whiteboard (WB) and Interactive White Board (IWB) is accessible to all
* The Whiteboard has the date, written neatly
* Learning Intentions and Success Criteria are displayed and referred to in lessons and evaluated during or at the end of a session, either through Self Evaluation (SE) or Peer Evaluation (PE)
* Key questions, visual prompts and resources are displayed and used to trigger prior knowledge and to support or reinforce learning
* Prompts, ideas and good examples are displayed, annotated and referred to, in order to support future learning
* Key words, technical vocabulary and definitions are displayed, updated regularly, referred to, discussed, used within teaching and to support learning
* Good examples of work are displayed, annotated, and referred to during lessons by teachers and children

**Display:**

* The whole school environment offers opportunities for learning through a variety of displays which encourage interaction by the children and which reflect the life, work and values of our school
* Displays reflect a broad and balanced curriculum and relate to recent, current or impending learning topics, both in the classrooms and shared areas such as the halls, entrances, corridors, library and ICT room
* Displays are of the highest standard at all times, well-maintained and removed when they have served their purpose
* Displays fulfil a variety of purposes; to show children’s achievements; to provide information for reference and to act as a stimulus for ideas. They are educative, informative and visually stimulating and have a positive impact on children’s interest and motivation
* Displays are representative of all children. When children’s work is valued by being displayed, self-esteem is raised
* Displays are child-centred to create an interesting and attractive environment in which learning is facilitated
* Displays include statements, questions and internet sites to highlight key points and advance learning
* Progression throughout the school is reflected in the displays
* The whole school community is involved in the production of displays. Children may be involved in planning displays; in the selection, presentation and mounting of displays. The School Council, Eco Team and Rights Respecting Team also contribute.

**Digital Display:**

St Patrick’s Primary School uses a flat screen as a tool for the learning environment in the entrance foyer. Positive images and statements promote the school ethos and reinforce key messages to staff, children and visitors. This is also used to inform staff, parents and children of notices.

**Health and safety:**

* There are safe routes around the classroom and fire exits are clear (see Fire Safety Policy).
* Work spaces are free of clutter.
* Blinds and curtains are open, whenever possible.
* Windows are opened as appropriate.
* Higher cupboard tops, walkways and fire routes are not used for storage.
* Pins to position work may be used on boards before stapling, but staples are used in final displays. Staples and broken staples are removed carefully with a staple remover.
* Ladders or step stools as appropriate are used to safely put up new displays.
* Staff work in pairs if working at higher levels.

**Review of Policy:**

This policy will be reviewed every three years.

The date of the next annual review will be October 2024.