

Teaching and Learning at St Katherine's

Our classrooms are underpinned by our Culture of Excellence, to support all students with their learning: Building Relationships; Establishing Consistent Routines; Planning and Delivering Quality First Teaching. We support professional improvement through our whole school CPL curriculum and incremental coaching (every member of staff is coached by a colleague).

Planning and Delivering Quality First Teaching

Our teachers are subject experts who secure the attention of learners and give instruction with clarity and precision. They consider how to present new subject content in ways that make it stick in students' minds.

We know that learning cannot happen without thinking hard. To facilitate thinking hard our teachers: deliberately chunk and link new content to prior learning; build in regular opportunities for review and practice; design tasks for students to reflect on their own learning, and discuss ideas.

Homework supports the learning process, and assessments are typically cumulative. Students are explicitly taught how to prepare for assessments so that knowledge is retained in long-term memory.

Feedback is an integral part of learning. Teacher feedback is predominantly given live in lessons. Teachers will regularly gather and respond to feedback throughout lessons. Students are routinely taught to reflect on and improve their work, and proof reading is encouraged. Structured student discussions including “Turn and Talk” are used to develop oracy and provide teachers with valuable feedback about student understanding.

We build strong relationships

Our relationships with children support and inspire learning, while maintaining high behavioural and academic expectations. Staff adopt a warm/strict approach and seek to know and understand children as individuals and learners.

We establish consistent routines

Students need routines and consistency to thrive. Students arrive at lessons on time and ready to learn. All teachers follow our centralised behaviour policy which provides students with a calm, safe, and purposeful environment in which they can learn.