ST NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL

School Policy No 18

Skills for Learning, Life and Work

RATIONALE

It was agreed by the Scottish Government that to improve the life chances of young people in Scotland it was necessary to develop skills for Learning, Life and Work to give every young person the opportunity to reach their full potential. To that end St. Ninian's High School is developing a broad range of opportunities for young people, through partnership engagement, by contextualising learning by making links with the world of work and providing opportunities to place learning within a practical context.

AIM

We aim to develop skills in order to help young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. The skills and attributes developed should provide them with a sound basis for their development as lifelong learners in their adult, social and working lives, enabling them to reach their full potential.

OBJECTIVES

1. To ensure that each young person receives their entitlements.

2. To embed the development of skills in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing across the curriculum.

3. To provide opportunities for young people to work with each other.

4. To support learners through personal learning planning and career guidance.

5. To ensure that pupils understand and know what skills that they are developing and why.

6. To develop Higher Order Thinking Skills.

7. To develop IT skills.

8. To develop opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills.

9. To ensure that every child has the entitlement to access physical education.

10. To develop enterprise and employability skills in our young people.

11. To develop partnerships resulting in all young person to having a positive destination.

12. To track and monitor wider achievement.

13. To develop attributes such as self worth, resourceful, resilience, respect for others and they have a 'can do, will do attitude'.

METHODS OF ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES

- The curriculum within St Ninian's High School has been designed to ensure that learning experiences of young people encourage them to develop, demonstrate and apply a broad range of skills. Through this they will develop attributes to enable them to become successful learners, confident individuals, respectful citizens, and effective contributors

- our curricular design allows each young person to receive their physical education entitlement of 2 two hours per week

- our curricular design will take into account our demographics and labour market information

- three committees have been set up: Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. These committees are working with departments to ensure that pupils achieve their full potential in these areas. The Experiences and Outcomes for each of the three areas will be met by all pupils in their learning journeys at St. Ninian's High School

- a variety of teaching methods provides a stimulating curriculum and encourages the development of social skills by using a range of techniques such as Co-operative learning, active learning and inter disciplinary learning

- departmental courses are reviewed and designed to encourage the development of skills

- IT is used to enhance lessons and our young people develop their skills in the use of IT throughout the curricular areas

- the design of our assessments help young people to understand why skills are important, reflect on how they are developing their skills, identify the next steps in their skills development and understand how the skills they have acquired can be used across the curriculum and in their lives in and outside the classroom or establishment

- subject teachers and learners create opportunities to reflect on young people's progress in the range of skills that they consider to be important in their learning, lives and work

- every young person will have a 'key adult' who they will meet with one period a week through the personal support period. This class will help pupils develop skills for learning, life and work with a particular focus on self evaluation and target setting to support them in making judgements about their learning and plan appropriate next steps and career pathways

- young people will be monitored and tracked within departments and through guidance to encourage them to reach their full potential. Along with career guidance we strive to achieve positive destinations for all young people

- our Senior Phase is developed to provide opportunities for all young people. We already have effective partnerships in place and seek to strengthen them and identify opportunities for new partnerships to provide wider and more innovative opportunities for skills development

- the ethos and life of the school promotes a caring community which will develop worthy attributes in our pupils

- staff training in Bloom's Taxonomy will develop Higher Order Thinking Skills within the classroom; and

- a range of opportunities are available to develop leadership skills eg Columba 1400, Caritas Awards, Duke of Edinburgh and XL.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Time for committees to convene and liaise with departments
- time for departments to review courses to ensure the opportunity for young people to develop skills for learning, life and work
- collegiate discussion on course for Supporting Learners period
- continue staff training in Co-operative Learning
- staff development on monitoring and tracking; and
- staff training on Bloom's taxonomy.

USEFUL LINKS

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/BtC4_Skills_tcm4-569141.pdf

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RESOURCES

- Bloom's Taxonomy Literature and inset
- quality materials for Personal Support period; and
- global and market labour trends.

EVALUATION

It is important that all policies are evaluated to establish the extent to which the objectives are being met and to clarify problems as and when the need arises. This evaluation will be an on-going process. A formal evaluation will be carried out towards the end of each session.

Updated May 2023