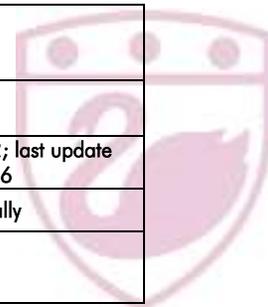


Paulet High School	School Policy Document		
Document Title	Teaching and Learning Policy		
Document Status	Approved	Approved Date	7th March 2012; last update 09/16
Document Owner	Deputy Headteacher	Review Date	Annually
Audience:	Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Students <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



## Principles

“We need to produce people who know how to act when they’re faced with situations for which they were not specifically prepared” (*Papert, 1998*)

“If learning is our most important aim, then teaching is our most important activity.”

## Context

This policy has been developed with the aim of setting out our vision for 21st Century learning at Paulet High School. It has been written in conjunction with the Teaching and Learning Group which is made up of colleagues from across all departments brought together with a common belief that truly effective learning is achieved when both the student and teacher move beyond their comfort zones. The SLT, Governing Body and students have also been consulted.

## Our Vision

Our vision is to consistently deliver outstanding lessons to our students and equip them with the skills that a 21st Century student will need to acquire for success in the wider world. Learning should be student-centred not teacher-centred. Students should be engaged in active, not passive, learning.

**‘If the teacher is working harder than the students then something is wrong’**

We want to encourage a climate of ‘risk-taking\*’ in the classroom. We will seek to foster innovation and the use of technology in pursuit of this vision. Teachers will be given the freedom to experiment in their classroom practice as we believe that from this freedom comes the most exciting of learning experiences for our students.

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Our students should be engaged with, and motivated by, the lessons they experience. If students enjoy their learning, it will be more productive. Our students should be challenged at every opportunity - they should be encouraged to aim for the sky and not be afraid to fall short. We will seek to create independent thinkers and develop independent learning as part of this.

Students will be encouraged to collaborate within and outside of their lessons and be shown how this can deepen their learning experience.

Our teaching staff colleagues are the key to achieving this vision and consequently we will nurture, support and encourage their talent while providing them with the training and opportunities to do so.

## Method

To achieve our vision we will do the following:

- Create a culture of mutual lesson observation in a supportive environment
- Promote the Paulet Teaching and Learning Group as an innovative and creative source for teachers
- Follow the whole-school policies on assessment, marking, homework and behaviour
- Embed Moodle (our virtual learning environment) throughout the school
- Encourage collaboration and sharing of good practice by focussing directed time meetings on teaching wherever possible
- Fully engage with the governing body to deepen their understanding of teaching and learning within the school; and to take advantage of their position as a supportive yet critical friend
- Establish annual departmental development days in the summer term to provide departments with quality time to focus on the development of their teaching and learning. This will constitute part of the department development plan and ultimately the school development plan
- Create, share and utilise a Paulet Handbook for Teaching and Learning.
- Promote our vision within the classroom and around the school using our Diagram of Effective Learning which aims to promote:

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- Adaptive Teaching / Assessment for Learning
- Pace and Progress
- Engagement, challenge, active learning
- Independent Learning
- Relationships
- Leaving your 'Comfort Zone'
- Risk taking.

\* Paulet High School defines 'risk taking' as:

Planning activities which ensure teachers and students work beyond their comfort zone. Allowing teachers to 'change course' and 'be adaptive' within a lesson if required. Equipping teachers to embrace innovation and cutting edge technology to inform and enhance their classroom practice. To build the following quotes into everyday classroom practice:

"If you only do what you know you can do - you never do very much."

"When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps."

"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."