

High Cliff Academy Approach to Teaching and Learning

At High Cliff Academy, our approach to Teaching and Learning is guided by our commitment to constantly raise standards and ensure that all pupils make excellent progress from their starting points. Based on current research and theory, our approach never stands still and is continually reviewed and adapted.

At High Cliff Academy, we follow a knowledge based curriculum whilst providing a wealth of opportunities and experiences to develop the pupils' cultural capital. Lessons are taught through direct instruction, where explicit teaching techniques are used, alongside guided practice, until pupils are able to independently master the concept. Our aim is to ensure that knowledge is embedded into the pupils' long term memory and lessons are revisited until the teacher is confident that this has happened. Knowledge organisers are used to aid this and pupils are encouraged to use these in their learning.

The curriculum is structured so that it builds on what the pupils already know. This is frequently assessed by the teacher through the use of both low stakes quizzing and summative assessments. Learning is meaningful; pupils understand what they are learning and why and have the ability to articulate this with others. Wherever possible, learning is linked to real life experiences.

A key part of our approach to teaching and learning is our use of rich, high quality texts which guide the learning context for each term. Using such texts exposes pupils to a wealth of vocabulary and allows pupils to make connections within the different subject areas. This also promotes and develops cultural literacy.

High expectations and consistency within our approach across the Academy, alongside excellent CPD for teachers, ensures that all pupils receive the high quality education that they deserve. Our approach is driven by the belief that every child, whatever their background, can achieve. Pupils will leave High Cliff Academy having mastered the essential knowledge and skills needed for their next stage of education, and are able to contribute positively and powerfully to society as adults.