



## INDEPENDENT LEARNING STATEMENT

*Checkendon Primary School is a dynamic Church of England school in which our Anglican Christian values of respect, courage, integrity, compassion and hope are at the heart of everything we do. We give every pupil the opportunity to develop their particular capabilities in our stimulating and caring environment where creative teaching and an inspiring curriculum lead to high-quality learning and outstanding achievement. We work in partnership with parents and the wider community to help every pupil make excellent progress, develop a lifelong love of learning and broaden their sense of citizenship, as they grow in mind, body and spirit.*

The school aims to promote independent learning so that children can maximise their learning potential and become lifelong learners. This is achieved by enabling children to:

- develop an enquiring mind
- acquire knowledge and skills through their own efforts
- develop self-evaluation skills
- respond to and build on feedback
- seek challenges

### **Teachers and teaching assistants promote independent learning by:**

- demonstrating the attributes of a growth mindset by showing an enthusiasm for learning and how perseverance and making mistakes can help learning
- helping children develop the characteristics of effective learning
- collaborating with pupils to set shared learning goals
- providing an enabling environment so that children can access resources to help their learning
- giving pupils choices so they can follow their own interests and preferences
- asking good open ended questions
- encouraging group work so that learners can learn from each other
- encouraging self and peer editing before work is handed in
- giving constructive feedback both orally and through marking
- giving children time to look at work that has been marked in order to review and reflect and improve their work
- helping pupils to make sense of what they have learned
- encouraging children to access their own resources and tools for learning
- making sure classrooms are organised so that pupils can access the resources they need independently
- promoting and emphasising the importance of good listening for successful independent learning using resources such as A Minute to Listen

Teachers and teaching assistants foster the development in pupils of the Characteristics of Effective Learning (as listed in Development Matters in EYFS)

**An independent learner is engaged...**

- shows interest and curiosity
- seeks a challenge
- initiates activities
- shows a 'can do' attitude
- takes a risk, engaging in new experiences, and learning by trial and error

**An independent learner is motivated....**

- maintains focus
- shows high levels of energy, fascination
- persists with activity when challenges occur
- shows a belief that more effort or a different approach will pay off
- bounces back after difficulties

**An independent learner enjoys achieving what they set out to do by**

- showing satisfaction in meeting their own goals
- being proud of how they accomplished something – not just the end result
- enjoying meeting challenges for their own sake rather than external rewards or praise

**An independent learner shows creative and critical thinking by**

- thinking of ideas
- finding ways to solve problems
- finding new ways to do things
- making predictions
- testing their ideas
- developing ideas of grouping, sequences, cause and effect

**An independent learner chooses ways to do things by**

- planning, making decisions about how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal
- checking how well their activities are going
- changing strategy as needed
- reviewing how well the approach worked

These are displayed in all classrooms as characteristics of effective independent learning skills.

**Pupils**

The school has developed a Pupil Code of Conduct which includes key characteristics of an active independent learner linked to School Values. This is displayed in every classroom.

**Pupil Code of Conduct****Pupils will respect everyone in the school community and**

- be ready to learn and let others learn
- be polite to adults and each other
- take care of school property and the school environment
- walk quietly around school
- follow the school uniform, lunchtime, playtime and off site visit rules

**Pupils will behave with integrity and compassion to**

- take care of each other
- be honest
- do the right thing, even when this is not easy
- sort out disagreements without hitting or saying mean things
- understand and accept individual differences

**Pupils will be courageous, hopeful learners who**

- take responsibility for their learning
- ask thoughtful questions
- make mistakes
- persevere
- work hard enough to find out how good they can really be

Pupils are awarded Independent Learner Awards by teachers and teaching assistants to recognise and celebrate the characteristics of a growth mind set and active independent learning. These awards form part of the school's Good Behaviour Policy.

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