



STREATHAM & CLAPHAM PREP SCHOOL

DRAMA POLICY

Person(s) responsible for this policy		Head of Drama Prep	
Last review by	R Pressley	Review date	September 2024
Date of next review		September 2025	

INTRODUCTION

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of Drama at Streatham and Clapham Prep School.

Drama is incorporated within the framework of the classroom teaching in the lower school and will be taught by a specialist teacher as a stand-alone subject from Year 3 - Year 6.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To provide children with a chance to explore and experiment with their own creativity
2. To enhance the confidence of children in performing to others
3. To extend critical thinking abilities and appreciation of talents and genre within the drama framework, as an audience member
4. To use drama to differentiate and extend the learning and teaching of the core and foundation subject areas
5. To provide and extend skills in oratory, risk-taking, teamwork and critical and quick-thinking skills
6. For teachers to provide appropriate opportunities for children to demonstrate abilities in areas not traditionally recognised. To give special focus to learning styles and skills shown by children.
7. To encourage children to recognise their own talents and limitations as a performer and to extend the boundaries of both.

CURRICULUM ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT:

Teachers will incorporate drama activities into their literacy lessons as part of speaking and listening. Drama can be used by teachers at their discretion in all subjects in order to enhance learning and understanding. Drama will be taught by a specialist teacher in the upper school. The specialist drama teacher is also available for advice and guidance on

how to use drama in the curriculum and to provide assistance with planning and resources.

TEACHING AND LEARNING:

Drama teaching will be carried out by a specialist teacher during a weekly drama lesson. The drama teacher will, in collaboration with the class teachers, direct and oversee rehearsals and performances. At times experts may be brought in from the community and the class may take excursions to see performances.

There will be a range of individual, group and whole class activities and these may be modified to support or extend the learning of individual pupils. Resources and differentiated tasks will be used to support this approach.

PERFORMANCES:

All children will have an opportunity to perform for each other during the year whether in year group productions or class assemblies. Performance may also be given to other classes where appropriate.

Year group performances will take place throughout the year.

Autumn term: Nursery nativity, Reception nativity, Year 1 and 2 Winter production (normally non nativity)

Spring term: Year 4 production

Summer term: Year 6 production (2 performances)

ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORTING:

Assessment will be carried out in accordance with the school assessment policy. The assessment will be ongoing and be based primarily on the observations made during drama lessons and, where appropriate, children's reflection or their own and other's work.

The assessment will form the basis of:

- Reflecting on the appropriateness of the activities and tasks
- Planning for future learning and teaching
- Understanding the progression of children's skill and confidence development
- Providing information for parents, colleagues and other interested parties when required.

INCLUSION:

It is intended that all children will develop an appreciation for the skills, abilities and limitations of others during the course of their experiences in drama and that this will validate their own exploration of their personal ability and enjoyment of drama. Children will not be limited or marginalised from experiencing the full curriculum because of their beliefs, abilities, ethnicity or other extenuating circumstances. Resources and differentiated teaching methods will ensure that support is given to allow full access to all children. All children will be encouraged to take risks and push themselves in the area of performance.

RESOURCES:

Resources will be kept in a central location for teachers. Planning will be planned by the specialist teacher in the upper school. New resources will be ordered where there is appropriate funding and a need is realised.

THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:

Children will have opportunities to have their work exhibited and recorded through photos, video and sharing with other classes or groups where appropriate.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES:

Activities may occur within the school programme – in particular where theatre opportunities arise. Trips outside the school environment may also be planned to support the learning. A drama club is offered by the specialist teacher to all pupils in Year 6, exploring advanced drama skills. Further LAMDA classes are offered to pupils in Year 3 - 6, run on a peripatetic basis, where students work towards individual, pair or group examinations in acting, prose and verse speaking. LAMDA examinations will take place at the Prep school, usually at the end of the spring term or early in the summer term. There will also be LAMDA performances at various points throughout the year.

HOMEWORK:

Homework will be given at the teacher's discretion and in accordance with the school's homework policy. It may be used to support learning of parts particularly in regard to performances.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

Staff will be made aware of courses that will enhance the delivery of their programme or their personal understanding. The use of 'experts' to deliver aspects of the programme will also allow staff to fully provide for children in areas of weakness.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

If trips are being taken off site the staff will complete a risk analysis and complete the appropriate planning and procedures as required by the school. Risk assessments will be completed for general drama activities and productions.

REVIEW:

The policy and programme will be reviewed on an annual basis at the conclusion of the academic year to allow for changes to be made and implemented for the coming academic year.

Review

Date:

September

2023