

Policy Name: National Teaching and Learning Policy

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Cross References

Handbook for Evaluation of Educational Provision - ESAU

INTRODUCTION:

This policy defines the Ministry's expectations for the quality of teaching and learning in all government schools in the Cayman Islands. These expectations reflect international best practice and are based on the national standards, which for our education service, are found in the Education Standards and Assessment Unit's *Handbook for Evaluation of Educational Provision*. The National Teaching and Learning Policy must underpin the work of all schools so that there is consistency in provision and practice.

The Ministry requires all schools to develop their own policies on teaching and learning which build on the National Policy and place the national expectations and outcomes into their individual school context.

It is the intention of the Ministry to ensure consistent, effective provision and practice which are rigorously and regularly monitored and evaluated in order to raise students' standards of achievement across the education system.

Aims:

This policy aims to

- Specify the educational entitlement of all students
- Specify the expectations for the quality of teaching and learning in schools in the Cayman Islands

Policy statement

All students are entitled to

- Make good progress from their starting points
- Become confident, competent, motivated, enthusiastic, well behaved and independent learners, building on prior knowledge and developing new skills

All teachers are expected to

- Effectively use the National Curriculum
- Meet the differing needs of students
- Be secure in their subject knowledge and understanding of the curriculum
- Provide a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment
- Make effective use of all resources, including human resources, time and materials

- Use emerging technology to engage students and offer an expanding range of approaches to teaching and learning
- Make effective use of formative and summative assessment

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Ministry of Education will

- Establish educational policy
- Set national targets for improvement

The Education Standards and Assessment Unit will

- Evaluate the effectiveness of teaching and learning in schools, using the criteria set out in the *Handbook for the Evaluation of Educational Provision*
- Make recommendations for improvement
- Provide accurate and timely information to the Ministry on the quality of teaching and learning in schools in order to inform policy decisions

The Department of Education Services (School Improvement Officers) will

- Provide required support to enable schools to meet the improvement targets

School leaders will

- Facilitate the development of their individual school's teaching and learning policy
- Ensure the effective implementation of the teaching and learning policy and all other national educational policies
- Monitor and review provision and practice in their schools
- Facilitate ongoing professional development as needed
- Be accountable to the Ministry of Education for students' standards of achievement

School staff will

- Effectively implement the school's teaching and learning policy
- Use the *Handbook for Evaluation of Educational Provision* to guide their planning and practice

SCHOOL POLICIES ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

These must

- Be based on the National Policy
- Be developed collaboratively
- Take into account the indicators of good practice in the ESAU Handbook
- Be approved by the Department of education Services / School Improvement Officers in consultation with the Education Standards and Assessment Unit before implementation

School policies must reflect information in the *Handbook for Evaluation of Education Provision* and must specify

- How teachers are expected to plan to ensure that they meet the differing needs of students
- How the effectiveness of the planning will be monitored
- What 'secure subject knowledge' means
- How teaching and learning will be monitored

- How teachers will provide a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment
- What the learning outcomes for students should be
- How to make best use of resources, including teaching assistants and time
- How students will be assessed
- How students' progress will be recorded
- How students' achievements will be reported
- How assessment data will be used by teachers to modify their teaching and set targets for improvement

The provision and practice in all schools must be closely and regularly monitored. Schools will be held accountable for raising standards of achievement.