Edgewood Academy Teaching and Learning Cycle

Our Approach to Teaching and Learning

At Edgewood Academy, our approach to teaching and learning is built on research, evidence, and a deeply held belief that every child is entitled to safe, supported learning that inspires growth through innovation. We believe that all children can achieve— whatever their starting point.

Our classrooms follow a structured learning cycle that ensures every lesson connects, engages, challenges, and inspires. Teachers provide clear modelling, purposeful feedback, and high-quality questioning to help pupils think deeply and make meaningful progress.

We embed strategies throughout our curriculum, helping every child develop the knowledge, character, and learner skills they need to succeed in life. Pupils are supported to say, "I know, I can, I am."

Our Engagement Strategies, informed by research into cognitive science and best SEND practice, ensure every child can participate actively in their learning. Techniques such as structured questioning, paired discussion, and scaffolded challenge keep classrooms dynamic — where all pupils can think, contribute, and achieve. Pupils learn metacognitively, focusing on what they are learning and how to apply it.

At the heart of classroom practice is our **T.A.R.S. approach**, a consistent routine that promotes focus, engagement, and respect. Pupils are taught to:

- **T** – Track the Speaker
- **A** – Active Listening
- **R** – Respect and Respond
- **S** – Speak Loudly and Proudly

This simple yet powerful framework creates a culture of active participation, helping pupils to be ready to learn, contribute confidently, and take pride in their achievements.

Teaching and learning at Edgewood Academy is continually refined through instructional coaching, collaborative professional learning, and reflective practice. Our staff are committed to improving their craft and ensuring the very best outcomes for our pupils.

Inclusion, accessibility, and entitlement to a safe, inspiring education are non-negotiable. Through thoughtful use of technology, personalised scaffolding, and precise vocabulary instruction, all pupils — including those with SEND and additional needs — are supported to reach their full potential academically, socially, and emotionally.

At Edgewood Academy, every lesson is purposeful, every pupil is known, and every child is empowered to thrive and succeed in a safe, supportive, and innovative learning environment.

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◎ Connect & Regulate

Purpose: Prepare pupils emotionally and cognitively for learning.

Strategies:

- Emotional check-in or regulation strategy
- Recap prior learning (retrieval practice)
- Clear learning intention shared visually
- Sensory readiness and calm start

Teacher actions:

- Reduce cognitive load
- Activate prior knowledge
- Set expectations for engagement

Pupil outcomes:

- Ready to learn
- Understand the purpose of the lesson
- Feel safe and regulated

◎ Model & Explain

Purpose: Provide clear, scaffolded instruction.

Strategies:

- Teacher modelling (visualiser / iPad)
- Step-by-step explanation
- Think-aloud strategy
- Vocabulary instruction

Teacher actions:

- Break learning into manageable steps
- Demonstrate strategies explicitly
- Use visuals and assistive technology

Pupil outcomes:

- Understand the key concept
- Can see how learning is applied

◓ Practise & Apply

Purpose: Pupils practise learning with structured support.

Strategies:

- Guided practice
- Paired work / collaborative tasks
- Scaffolded tasks (Green → Blue challenge)
- Hands-on and technology supported learning

Teacher actions:

- Circulate and observe
- Prompt thinking through questioning
- Support regulation and engagement

Pupil outcomes:

- Begin applying knowledge independently
- Build confidence and fluency

◉ Check & Connect

Purpose: Assess understanding in real time.

Strategies:

- Cold call / show call
- Stop & jot
- Mini whiteboards or iPad responses
- Retrieval questions

Teacher actions:

- Identify misconceptions
- Adjust teaching immediately
- Ensure every pupil participates

Pupil outcomes:

- Articulate understanding
- Receive immediate guidance

◉ Connected Feedback

Purpose: Move learning forward through responsive feedback.

Edgewood's **Connected Feedback model** includes:

- Written feedback in books
- Digital feedback via Showbie
- Voice notes and annotations
- Screen recordings for modelling
- Live verbal feedback

Teacher actions:

- Provide immediate guidance
- Adapt teaching based on observation

- Capture assessment data

Pupil outcomes:

- Understand how to improve
- Act on feedback immediately

◍ Reflect & Grow

Purpose: Consolidate learning and build independence.

Strategies:

- Reflection questions
- Self-assessment
- Verbal explanation of learning
- Exit tickets or reflection journals

Teacher actions:

- Review progress against learning goal
- Celebrate effort and progress
- Plan next steps

Pupil outcomes:

- Recognise progress
- Develop metacognition and resilience