



# Dobcroft Junior School

**Headteacher** - Nicola Sexton ([headteacher@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk))

**Chair of Governors** – Ian Besford ([chair@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:chair@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk))

**Address:** Pingle Road, Sheffield, S7 2LN

**Telephone:** (0114) 236 8075

**Website:** [www.dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk](http://www.dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk)

**Email:** [enquiries@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk)

**Teacher email:** [teachers@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:teachers@dobcroft-jun.sheffield.sch.uk)

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## Cooperative Learning at Dobcroft Junior School

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing to share with you the exciting new strategies that we are adopting in our teaching and learning across the whole school. Your child may have already mentioned or spoken about these this week. The approach is called '**Kagan Cooperative Learning**' and we anticipate that it is going to have an extremely positive impact upon pupil experience in the classroom. In particular, it aims to improve a range of skills:

- Engagement
- Social skills
- Team work
- Listening skills
- Attention and focus
- Overall attainment
- Enjoyment

The approach is based around children having even more opportunities to cooperate together and to engage in speaking and listening activities with a wider range of children in each lesson. The approach and structures are rooted in educational research and we have chosen to adopt it as we feel that it is perfect for our pupils, who we think will really embrace the structures and activities and most importantly, we hope that it will have a positive impact upon their self-esteem, overall confidence and attainment.

The content of our curriculum isn't changing. It is more about how teachers deliver the curriculum, with specific focus areas of speaking, listening and team work. Part of the approach involves pupils sitting and working in mixed ability teams of 4 for a full half term, for most lessons. Within these groups, children then have 'shoulder partners' and 'face partners'. Please be reassured that teachers have grouped the children sensitively and that teams will change each half term, giving children the opportunity to work with a range of different pupils in their class throughout the year. However, if you are concerned about the new seating arrangements, please talk to your child's class teacher.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy talking to your children about some of the new strategies being used and please get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Sexton- Head Teacher