Early Years Curriculum

Curriculum Intent

At Our Lady & St Anne's Primary School, our intention is to make every child's very first experiences of school positive and meaningful. We place great emphasis on making our EYFS classrooms a place where children feel safe, valued and motivated to learn. We want children to be excited about coming to school and to thoroughly enjoy their time in school. We provide a curriculum that is tailored to the needs of all of the children in our diverse school community. We recognise and celebrate that each child is unique and has different strengths, interests, prior experiences and learning styles. We also place huge importance in celebrating different cultures and religious celebrations and teaching our children to be respectful of others' beliefs. We adapt our Early Years curriculum according to the individuality of different cohorts and consider the topics that the children are passionate about.



In our EYFS classes we strive to create safe and calm environments in which the children grow and meet their full potential. We place great importance on the children feeling welcome and part of our school community. Therefore, we place building these positive and respectful relationships between peers and with staff at the heart of our Early Years provision. We have high expectations for behaviour and learning, with all adults using the restorative approach to behaviour in order to help the children follow and understand our school values and rules: Ready, Respectful and Safe. We praise, recognise and reward not only the outcomes of children's play and learning, but the effort they put in. Ensuring that children understand the importance of being resilient, tackling challenges and persevering. We want all of our children to have the confidence to 'let their lights shine' every day.

Curriculum Implementation

At Our Lady & St Anne's Primary School, we ensure that all children experience the seven areas of learning set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework through a balance of adult lead teaching and child-initiated play. We place strong emphasis in ensuring the children develop the prime areas first as we believe all children learn best when they feel secure, safe and happy. Once the children are settled into school life, we then introduce the specific areas.



There are seven areas of learning and development.

The prime areas are: –

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

The Specific areas are: –
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts & Design

We place a great emphasis on learning through play and direct practical experiences led by the interests of our children. Learning is organised so that the curriculum is delivered through a combination of adult led activities and continuous provision opportunities, encouraging children to develop their learning independently through discovery, exploration, curiosity and challenge. We use the Development Matters statements throughout the Early Years to support the children's development and to build on their skills throughout Nursery and Reception. Throughout all of these areas of learning, and at the heart of our EYFS, are the Characteristics of Effective Learning. We strive to develop these key characteristics of 'Playing and Learning', 'Active Learning' and 'Thinking Critically' in order to give the children the skills that they will need throughout their development.

Our curriculum involves both the inside and outside classrooms and is planned in a cross-curricular way to enable all aspects of the children's development. Whilst fostering the children's interests are at the heart of our curriculum, we ensure that we provide all pupils with a broad range of experiences and opportunities. We therefore have a topic-based curriculum which is text based and develops the children's vocabulary and expands on their prior knowledge and experiences. We use both fiction and non-fiction texts to develop the children's understanding of the world around them. All of the crucial skills, knowledge and vocabulary that we teach are presented gradually to the children throughout the year, building on prior skill, knowledge and understanding. We use 'The way to know you more clearly' diocesan curriculum for RE which allows the children opportunities to learn about the Catholic faith and Jesus, as well as, reflecting on their own experiences. As a multicultural school we also celebrate different cultures and religious festivals throughout the year to ensure the children are respectful of, and value other people's beliefs and traditions.

<u>Curriculum Impact</u>

At Our Lady and St Anne's, we have high expectations to ensure that all children make 'good progress' across all of the areas of the EYFS curriculum despite their varied and diverse starting points. We work hard to develop happy, independent and motivated learners who are excited to come to school each day. At the end of Reception, we aim for all children to reach the Early Learning Goals and to be at the expected level of development. The impact of our curriculum is measured by assessing the children termly and reporting whether the children are on track using the Development matters statements which then progress to the Early Learning Goals for Reception aged children. The impact of our curriculum will also be measured by how effectively it helps our pupils develop into well rounded individuals who embody our values and carry with them the knowledge, skills and attitudes which will make them lifelong learners

and valuable future citizens. We endeavour for pupils to be Key Stage 1 ready and have our school values embedded by the time they leave Reception class.