

Guide to the Foundation Stage Framework

This is a very important stage in your child's development as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years' experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; whilst supporting their development, wellbeing and learning needs.

Young children are powerful learners who learn quickly. It is proven that a child's experiences at this crucial stage has a major impact on their future life chances. They make sense of their environment and their experiences through play. Children are naturally drawn to play and it is recognised as being important for their wellbeing and development. There are many forms of play, all of which help children to learn, become confident learners and develop skills for the future. Some play is child initiated and adults may enhance and support children's learning, some play is highly structured and adult directed. Both of these offer purposeful experiences for the child. Children should be stretched but not pushed beyond their capabilities, so they can enjoy their learning. Through this they will grow in confidence and will be more likely to reach their full potential. We provide a stimulating environment full of resources to enable children to investigate and explore in a purposeful way.

Parents also play a crucial role in helping their children to learn. We, as school and parents, need to work closely to ensure continuity between experiences at home and those at school. When we feel your child is ready they will receive a reading book, and will be asked to read this at home.

The EYFS Framework consists of 7 areas of Learning & Development:-

3 Prime Areas

- Personal Social & Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication & Language

4 Specific Areas

- Expressive Art & Design
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World

Plus 3 Characteristics of Effective Learning (How children learn)

- Playing & Exploring in their environment
- Active Learning, Involvement & Concentration
- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

All children develop at different rates and have different interests. The ten areas listed above all interlink and are taught through a range of stimulating activities. Our staff teach and support your child and will make sure that the activities they plan are suited to your child's unique needs. The children are encouraged to investigate and explore as well as learn to be respectful and caring towards others. We also take into account the different ways children learn and use a variety of teaching techniques to suit different learning styles.

Much thought has been given to making sure that your child is as safe as possible. Within the Early Years is the EYFS statutory guidance that we must follow such as; staff ratios, administering medicines, procedures and risk assessments. There will be various forms that we will ask you to complete about such matters. You should hand a collection time/tea form in to the class teacher every week. (see Appendix)

You will find displays around our school showing in more detail the type of activities that the children participate in. Most of our teaching is based around topics which may change from year to year based on that particular group of children's interest and/or topical events. Parents will receive a copy of the half termly topic review via your child's book bag. Detailed planning is available on request.

Outdoor play is an important part of our curriculum and your child should always come in suitable shoes, coats etc (named). They should bring hats, scarves, gloves, sunhats etc as appropriate. Children may also partake in trips; we will always ask for your written permission for this. All trips are optional. Please ensure your child has a pair of named wellington boots in school at all times for use when it rains.

We are a Methodist school and uphold Christian values. The School Chaplain visits the older children regularly, often telling stories with a moral. We explore and celebrate other cultures and religions as part of our curriculum.