



## EYFS Curriculum Statement

### Intent

Our Early Years department lays the foundations for life-long learning. Provision here is all about meeting our young children's needs, so that they can grow and learn happily in ways that will help them develop skills and knowledge across the Prime and Specific areas of the EYFS.

Effective learning comes through a variety of different approaches: child led play and exploration, supported learning and interactions with adults and direct teaching. These are carefully balanced to meet the needs of each cohort, both indoors and outdoors.

We build up positive, strong relationships with parents to make learning more successful and to support transitions into the EYFS and then into Y1.

### Implementation

We spend time getting to know our children and ensure strong relationships are made with staff so that children feel safe and secure.

We know that early literacy and communication skills are central to future learning, so our curriculum is based around themes linked to texts we share from a variety of genres. These themes might be chosen in advance by staff or could be based on children's interests, next steps or special events. Reading and revisiting texts allows new concepts to be explored, vocabulary to be introduced and a love of reading to be developed.

Oracy is integral to our days, with opportunities to use talk in play, to ask questions and wonder, to describe personal experiences and to participate in whole class and small group work.

Language screening and intervention programmes support communication skills across both Nursery and Reception.

We plan for children's learning in the following areas:

#### **The Prime Areas**

- \*Personal Social and Emotional Development
- \*Communication and Language
- \*Physical Development

#### **The Specific Areas**

- \*Literacy
- \*Maths
- \*Understanding the World
- \*Expressive Arts and Design
- \*Religious Education



Wherever possible, we want our children's learning to be experienced based to enrich their lives and promote learning. We achieve this through hands-on activities, the use of our school grounds and local area, visits and visitors and themed days, which take place across the EYFS to encourage collaboration, familiarisation and a sense of belonging.

Our school has adopted a mastery approach to the teaching of Maths. This ensures concepts and skills are embedded and children have the opportunity to use and apply their skills in a wide, practical range of contexts. To support our teaching, we use Power Maths and the NCETM Mastery Programme.

Phonics is taught and supported through "Little Wandle Letters and Sounds". It begins with Phase 1 where our children tune into sounds around them, explore sounds they can make and practise the important skill of oral blending. In Phase 2, they build up their knowledge of letter sounds, learning to blend, segment and read. Reading books are introduced for them to apply their phonic knowledge and they are encouraged to regularly read at home to practise and secure these skills.

Religious Education is taught through weekly lessons and activities following the diocesan scheme Learning and Growing as the People of God. We also take as many opportunities as possible to live out our callings through prayerful, charity, environmental and community activities.

Children are encouraged to play and explore, solve problems, be creative and think critically. Learning opportunities take place both indoors and outdoors. Our inclusive approach caters for all children and we liaise with outside agencies as required. We track children's development to ensure they are in line with, or beyond, national expectations and provide extra support for pupils, where appropriate.

### Impact

Our children leave the EYFS as happy and confident learners with strong foundations in Maths, Literacy and Phonics. Our Prime areas scored above the county average in 2024 representing the emphasis we place on Communication and PSED. Data shows the impact of our language intervention programmes.

Through our Religious Education and RSHE curriculums, pupils develop as individuals, learning to live out their calling with compassion and love. Feedback from parents continues to be positive and we enjoy the opportunities we have to work together to support our families.