

Early Years Curriculum Design

More than anything we want our children to be happy and thrive in a constantly changing world. Our curriculum will be taught with consideration of the needs of all our learners and local context.

As a church school our curriculum is underpinned by our core values of

- Love
- Determination
- Respect
- Honesty
- Courage and
- Compassion

Intent:

At Saint Mary's Primary School we offer a curriculum rich in wonder and memorable experiences. We work hard to provide a stimulating environment that provides exciting opportunities, promotes challenge, exploration, adventure and a real love of learning. It is our intent that all children develop physically, verbally, cognitively and emotionally in an environment which values all cultures, communities and people. We aim for our children to be confident and independent, to believe in themselves and interact positively with others.

We understand that play is an integral part of learning and this is at the heart of our Early Years curriculum. We believe that the correct mix of adult directed and uninterrupted child-initiated play ensures the best outcomes for pupils.

Warm and positive relationships between staff and children, consistent routines and strong relationships with parents are key.

We recognise the crucial role that early year's education has to play in providing firm foundations upon which the rest of a child's education is successfully based.

Implementation:

The Curriculum design at St Marys is based on evidence from cognitive science; three main principles underpin it,

- 1) Learning is most effective with spaced repetition.
- 2) Interleaving helps pupils to discriminate between topics and long-term retention.
- 3) Retrieval of previously learned content is frequent and regular, which increases both storage and retrieval strength.

At Saint Mary's Primary School we meet the welfare requirements laid down in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and actively safeguard and promote the welfare of all of our children. Teaching in the Reception class builds on the experiences of the children in Nursery and progress within the phase is carefully planned for and tracked.

We prioritise creating a 'language rich' environment through the use of songs, nursery rhymes, stories and providing time for quality interactions between adults and between peers. Staff ensure that interactions are positive and progressive, allowing children to flourish and gather words at pace in order to become confident communicators. Children are encouraged to become early readers through enjoyment of books and the systematic teaching of phonics.

The children learn nursery rhymes and develop their mathematical thinking through direct teaching and exploration. We want our children to become confident mathematicians who can apply what they have learnt to real life experiences.

Our school environment enables our children to strengthen their core muscles through physical play and children spend time outdoors in a natural environment.. Our learning environment is adaptable in order to reflect children's interests and progression. The children are supported to learn to work together, manage their feelings and ask questions through skilled adult facilitated play.

The curriculum is taught through topics which are enriched with classroom enhancements, trips and visitors. Topics are supported by quality key texts. These are chosen carefully to encourage children's speech, language and communication development. All planning however, is flexible and responsive to children's needs so plans can be changed and adapted dependent on children's interests.

We understand the importance of parental engagement and believe that our parents have a crucial role to play in their children's education. We work hard to create strong partnerships between home and school.

As part of the learning and teaching process, children are assessed in relation to their progress towards the Early Learning Goals. These judgements are based on observations and in-depth knowledge of the children acquired through ongoing assessment. These ongoing assessments are used to inform planning and next steps in teaching and learning for all children throughout the year.

Impact:

The curriculum offered and the experiences that we provide will ensure that all children flourish in Reception and Nursery, and adopt a real love of learning. The skills that we teach will lay a strong foundation and equip the children to make continued progress as they carry on their learning journey through school and beyond.