

Early Years Foundation Stage Learning & Curriculum Overview



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth until the end of the Reception year. At St Mary & St Paul's, this means that we use the EYFS curriculum to plan and assess children's learning in our Nursery and Reception classes.

The EYFS curriculum aims to develop each child to their full potential by offering a 'principled, play based approach to learning and development'. Young children learn best through play and our Early Years team will be able to provide your child with appropriate play and learning experiences for their stage of development and help them develop new skills. The activities that are provided for young children will underpin the skills they need to work towards the Early Learning Goals at the end of their Reception year at the school. The EYFS curriculum enables practitioners to recognise your child's strengths and areas where they need more support to develop new skills.

For young children it is important that they are made to feel safe and secure in their surroundings. This is aided by having key staff within each class who get to know you and your child well and build a positive relationship with you as a family. In Nursery and Reception at St Mary & St Paul's, key staff will be the class teacher and the teaching assistant(s) in your class.



The areas of learning and development are broken into seven areas. Three areas are particularly important for igniting children's enthusiasm for learning. These are the three prime areas of:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

There are then four specific areas through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design



All areas of learning and development are important and interconnected and many activities will cover many of the areas. Each area is divided into stages of development and practitioners are able to identify resources and learning opportunities for individual children dependent on their developmental needs. A lot of children's learning will happen outside the classroom, as well as in the classroom. At St Mary & St Paul's we have worked hard to develop our outdoor areas so that they provide lots of opportunities for children to play and explore.

The EYFS also encourages practitioners and parents/carers to work together. This is an opportunity for you to provide input into your child's development in discussions with your class teacher. At St Mary & St Paul's we have an open door policy which means we are always ready to help and discuss anything concerning your child's welfare and education.