

## Early Years Foundation Stage

### Intent

At St Austin's EYFS (Nursery and Reception classes) we aim to create a place where children can explore, learn, be active, make friends, stay safe and be adventurous. Research shows that children learn best through structured play, with skilled adults to talk to, think with and learn from.

We offer a range of experiences which help to develop these skills in our children. Our curriculum is broad and balanced and encompasses planned activities which are adult led, and a whole host of child initiated activities which build confidence and independence.

### Implementation

We follow the Early Years Foundation stage curriculum and draw upon the Characteristics of Effective learning to guide and plan extensive activities for the children.

**This consists of three Prime Areas of:**

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

**and four Specific Areas of:**

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

**Characteristics of Effective Learning to help us plan and encourage the children in their learning. These are:**

- Playing and Exploring
- Active Learning
- Creating and Thinking Critically

Play features in all of our curriculum and we try to follow the children's interests where appropriate. We aim to introduce new ideas and learning to their experience in school through planned activities.

Our learning environment offers access to both indoor and outdoor activity and encourages the children to explore, collaborate and be adventurous in their learning.

The timetable is organised effectively to ensure a balance of teacher directed and child initiated activity. Learning through play is vital to a child's development and we aim to offer provision that allows play to be purposeful and challenging.

We have dedicated time where we engage in phonics, reading maths and topic work alongside RE. Children progress is track through observation and in-depth knowledge of the child. Our experienced team are able to challenge and support children's learning where appropriate.

In addition to our daily class sessions we offer intervention for phonics, maths and communication skills. These interventions reinforce previous learning and support the children in achieving a Good Level of Development at the end of their Reception year.

### Impact

At St Austin's we use both formative and summative assessments to inform our medium term and weekly planning.

At the beginning of the school year we start with a baseline assessment. In Nursery this takes the form of observing the children and the provision and planning activities to extend and enhance their learning.

In Reception we use the Reception Baseline Assessment materials alongside our own observations and information gathered from parents meetings and Nursery contact.

Through our regular observations we are able to identify children who require intervention and support and Pupil progress meetings inform our next steps. Ongoing observation helps staff to complete the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile at the end of the children's Reception year.

This data shows children who are working at expected level or at emerging level for a Reception age child. This assessment also highlights those children who have made a Good Level of Development throughout the Reception year.