

The Curriculum

Activities in reception are carefully planned and organised in order to provide a range of learning experiences. Individual learning journeys are kept by staff to record the activities your child participates in, as well as their progress in specific skills.

Planning for each term is carried out using a topic-based approach, following the children's interests and responding to specific events.

All children in Reception follow a curriculum called the Early Years Foundation Stage and this is broken down into 3 prime aspects and 4 specific areas of learning.

Prime:

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

Specific:

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

How Children Learn

In Reception, the way in which children learn is just as important as what they learn. The ways in which a child engages with other people and the environment, plays and explores, is active, creative and thinks critically, all underpin learning and development and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.

We encourage the development of these Characteristics of Effective Learning through our play based environment.

Engagement

Playing and Exploring

Finding out and exploring

- Showing curiosity about objects, events and people
- Using senses to explore the world around them
- Engaging in open-ended activity
- Showing particular interests

Playing with what they know

- Pretending objects are things from their experience
- Representing their experiences in play
- Taking on a role in their play
- Acting out experiences with other people

Being willing to 'have a go'

- Initiating activities
- Seeking challenge
- Showing a 'can do' attitude
- Taking a risk, engaging in new experiences, and learning by trial and error

Motivation

Active Learning

Being involved and concentrating

- Maintaining focus on their activity for a period of time
- Showing high levels of energy, fascination
- Not easily distracted
- Paying attention to details

Keeping on trying

- Persisting with activity when challenges occur
- Showing a belief that more effort or a different approach will pay off
- Bouncing back after difficulties

Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

- Showing satisfaction in meeting their own goals
- Being proud of how they accomplished something – not just the end result
- Enjoying meeting challenges for their own sake rather than external rewards or praise

Thinking

Creative and Critical Thinking

Having their own ideas

- Thinking of ideas
- Finding ways to solve problems
- Finding new ways to do things

Making links

- Making links and noticing patterns in their experience
- Making predictions
- Testing their ideas
- Developing ideas of grouping, sequences, cause and effect

Choosing ways to do things

- Planning, making decisions about how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal
- Checking how well their activities are going
- Changing strategy as needed
- Reviewing how well the approach worked

Prime Areas

Managing Feelings and Behaviours

Making Relationships



Speaking

Self-Confidence and Self- Awareness



Understanding



Listening and Attention

Moving and Handling

Health and Self-Care

Specific Areas

Number



Being Imaginative



Exploring and Using Media and Materials



Writing

Shape, Space and Measure



Reading



Technology

The World

