

Eastlea Primary School Early Years Curriculum

Intent

At Eastlea we provide our children with a curriculum that is designed to be flexible, engaging and exciting so that their needs and interests are embraced. Topics are planned to include children's interests and we provide opportunities through our curriculum to support learning, consolidate and deepen knowledge to ensure children meet their next steps, encouraging the children to become creative and critical thinkers. Activities are planned inside and outside the classroom which support all areas of the curriculum. We nurture the character of each child and as much as possible we provide children with first hand experiences and take the curriculum beyond the classroom. Our EYFS curriculum builds on children's previous learning and experiences and we 'fill the gaps' to allow the children to achieve the Learning Goals by the end of Reception.

Every child is an individual and we celebrate the uniqueness of each child and respect differences in our school community. Children are taught the basic skills, knowledge and values that allow our children to succeed in the future. We work with parents and carers to promote independent, confident and enthusiastic learners who have the potential to thrive and make good progress from their starting points. Some children will also make better than good progress. We want children to be happy children who we allow to reach their full potential.

Implementation

In Nursery and Reception we meet the welfare requirements and actively safeguard and promote the wellbeing of the children. All children will learn effectively when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met and when they have positive relationships with the adults who care for them. We plan the environment so children can learn and grow with confidence and independence.

Our Nursery and Reception classes follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and work towards the Early Learning Goals.

The aim of the Foundation Stage is to provide children with the building blocks to prepare themselves to be able to achieve their full potential. We start working on the **three prime areas** and as the children grow and progress, they can use these skills to develop the four specific areas.

The 7 areas of learning are:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Physical Development**
- **Communication and Language Development**
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Art and Design

Children in EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside. Activities also support the Characteristics of Effective Learning.

These are:

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

Our topics / themes are driven from child-centred topics, with enticing experiences, which motivate the children. They are linked to stories and they promote the love of reading. All practitioners use their knowledge of the EYFS curriculum to plan a broad, balanced and progressive learning environment and curriculum for all of our pupils. Pupils have the opportunity to work independently and collaboratively with their friends and members of staff.

At Eastlea we build positive relationships with parents/carers and encourage them to join in with school activities and open days as well as supporting their children's learning and sharing in their child's success. We keep parents informed through regular posts on Tapestry and through newsletters. We have parents' evening twice a year, a parent workshop once a year, welcome sessions (Nursery) and parent meetings to introduce staff before children start. Other opportunities to involve parents happen as part of whole school events.

Impact

Our children have varied and diverse starting points. We have high expectations to ensure all children make good progress across all areas. Interventions are in place for children who need extra support to achieve this. Our curriculum is planned to ensure a language-rich curriculum, and allowing children to talk is a priority in planning and in the classroom.

We strive for each child to achieve the Early Learning Goals at the end of Reception, to be Year 1 ready.

At the end of Nursery, most children

- Are able to talk to their friends and familiar adults to explain wants and needs
- Begin to know their likes and dislikes and give reasons
- To start to join in with some whole school activities
- To know the rules and routines of the Nursery

At the end of Reception, most children

- Have good communication skills, verbally and written, as well as good listening skills.
- Take pride in everything they do, always trying their best.
- Have the ability to persevere when they are challenged
- Become confident individuals
- Are kind, honest and respectful of others

All these goals feed in to the wider curriculum skills grids which show progression from Nursery, up to and including Year 6.

