

St Ann's RC Primary School



Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

Our School's Mission Statement

'We, the family of St. Ann's, rejoice in our learning; striving for excellence. We challenge ourselves, follow Jesus and empower each other to be the best we can be.'

Love, Respect, Service.

Date Reviewed	
Date Submitted to Governing Body	
Date Approved by Governing Body	
Date to be Reviewed	
Date of amendment	

Overview

At St Ann's R.C. Primary School, we believe that every child is created in the image of God and is cherished as a valued member of our school family. Rooted in our Catholic faith, we are committed to providing a nurturing and inspiring start to each child's educational journey, where they feel safe, loved and encouraged to achieve their very best.

Intent

At St Ann's R.C. Primary School, we recognise every child as a unique and precious gift from God. Rooted in our Catholic faith and guided by our school values of Love, Respect and Service, we are committed to providing a nurturing and inspiring Early Years experience where children feel safe, valued and able to flourish.

We believe that the Early Years Foundation Stage provides the essential foundations for lifelong learning. Our aim is to ensure that every child develops the knowledge, skills, attitudes and confidence they need to succeed both in school and in life.

Our curriculum is designed to:

- Support children to become confident, independent and resilient learners.
- Nurture children's spiritual, moral, social, emotional and academic development.
- Foster a lifelong love of learning through curiosity, exploration and play.
- Develop strong communication and language skills as the foundation for all learning.
- Promote positive relationships and a strong sense of belonging within our school community.
- Ensure equality of opportunity so that all children achieve their full potential from their individual starting points.

Through our Catholic ethos, we encourage children to live out the values of Love, Respect and Service, helping them to understand how they can care for themselves, others and the world around them.

Implementation

At St Ann's, we recognise that children learn best when they feel safe, valued and understood. We prioritise building strong, positive relationships with children and their families from the outset, ensuring a secure sense of belonging within our school community.

Learning is delivered through a carefully planned balance of purposeful play, adult-led teaching and child-initiated exploration. Our provision is structured around the seven areas of learning within the EYFS Framework, ensuring a rich, broad and progressive curriculum.

The Prime Areas of Learning – Communication and Language, Physical Development, and Personal, Social and Emotional Development – underpin all practice. These are supported by the Specific Areas of Learning: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts and Design.

Children's learning is enriched through opportunities that reflect Catholic Social Teaching and our values of Love, Respect and Service. Daily prayer, Celebration of the Word and Religious Education support children in developing their faith and understanding of Gospel values.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

These underpin all aspects of our provision:

- **Playing and Exploring** – Children are encouraged to investigate, explore and engage with new experiences through purposeful play, developing curiosity and confidence.
- **Active Learning** – Children are supported to persevere, concentrate and take pride in their achievements, developing resilience and motivation.
- **Creating and Thinking Critically** – Children are supported to develop ideas, make connections, solve problems and think independently.

Early Reading, Writing and Communication

Early reading and writing are taught through the systematic phonics programme Read Write Inc. A love of reading is promoted through high-quality texts, storytelling, nursery rhymes and planned opportunities for rich vocabulary development.

We place a strong emphasis on **oracy and language development**. Children learn in a language-rich environment where high-quality interactions, stories, songs and conversation are central to daily practice. Skilled practitioners use sustained shared thinking and purposeful interactions to extend vocabulary, deepen understanding and develop confident communicators.

Environment and Provision

Our indoor and outdoor environments are carefully planned to promote independence, creativity, exploration and problem-solving. Continuous provision enables children to apply and deepen their learning across all areas of the curriculum.

Children are supported to take appropriate risks, develop resilience and celebrate their achievements through well-resourced, purposeful learning experiences.

Parental Partnership

We value parents and carers as children's first educators. Strong partnerships are maintained through regular communication, half-termly newsletters, parent meetings, assemblies, an open-door approach and our online learning journal, Seesaw. This ensures that families are fully involved in their child's learning journey.

Curriculum Enhancement

Our curriculum is informed by the EYFS Statutory Framework and Development Matters (2023), ensuring learning is carefully sequenced and responsive to individual needs.

We enhance provision through evidence-based approaches and resources including:

- **Lighting The Path and Ten: Ten Resources** RE and spiritual development.
- **NCETM Mastering Number** early mathematics mastery.
- **Read Write Inc Phonics** high quality systematic phonics and early reading fluency.
- **Talk for Writing** language, storytelling and writing development.
- **Drawing Club** creativity, imagination and early writing.
- **WellComm** speech and language identification and intervention.

Impact

Children leave the Early Years Foundation Stage as confident, capable and enthusiastic learners who are well prepared for the next stage of their education.

The impact of our curriculum can be seen in children who:

- Demonstrate the values of Love, Respect and Service in their daily interactions.
- Show confidence, independence and resilience when faced with challenges.
- Communicate effectively and use a rich and growing vocabulary.
- Develop a love of reading, stories and language.
- Approach learning with curiosity, enthusiasm and creativity.
- Build positive relationships and show empathy, kindness and respect.
- Apply their learning across different areas of provision.
- Understand how to keep themselves safe, healthy and happy.
- Are well prepared academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually for transition into Year 1.

By the end of Reception, children have developed a strong sense of belonging within the St Ann's family. They leave the EYFS with secure foundations, a positive attitude towards learning and the confidence to embrace new challenges as they continue their journey as valued members of God's family.