

# Kirkstall St Stephen's C of E Primary School philosophy and intent for the Early Years Foundation stage

'We are cherished, we are challenged, we are children of God'

At Kirkstall St Stephen's Early Years Foundation Stage, we are passionate about supporting our children to be happy, confident and well-rounded individuals with a love for learning.

## **Intent**

It is our intent that all of our children develop physically, verbally, emotionally, creatively, intellectually and spiritually. Embedding a love for learning that will keep them curious and interested in everyday life. We strive to provide a rich learning environment alongside high quality interactions to challenge every child so they can achieve their full potential.

Our curriculum is designed to follow the EYFS Statutory Framework Curriculum 2021 and is further guided by a document called 'Development Matters' that sets out the learning, development and assessment requirements for all children until the end of their reception year. We have high expectations for all children. This includes those children with high levels of SEND, whose curriculum is planned to meet their personal needs.

We also endeavour develop our children's cultural capital through broad exciting experiences which will enrich their education and provide opportunities they may otherwise get.

## **Implementation**

Our children's well-being is paramount and each child is valued as an individual and encouraged to share their thoughts, feelings and interests. We encourage this by asking children to drive their own learning through class topics and projects. This collaborative work also has the added benefit of creating a positive team culture in class. We also help to eliminate barriers to learning by teaching children about emotions and feelings and the ways we express them correctly.

We aim to implement the 7 areas of learning by providing a safe and stimulating environment that allows children to flourish. We strive to provide high quality interactions to challenge every child so they can achieve their full potential. Within our EYFS Curriculum, children are assessed through objective led teaching, observations, teacher-child conversations and EYFS staff discussions this informs future planning and children's individual next steps in their learning. We use a combination of adult-led focus teaching and provision based independent learning to help children acquire new skills and become confident learners. We plan our teaching and activities to reflect our children's developmental needs as well as their interests. We have free flow outdoor provision giving children the freedom and space to explore and to challenge themselves. Our outdoor area provides compliment and extends our indoor classroom with key skills and knowledge planned for and resourced. It is a multi-dimensional and open ended which provides opportunities for children to flourish.

Throughout all of these areas of learning and at the centre of the EYFS Curriculum are the Characteristics of Effective Learning. We strive to develop these key characteristics of Playing and Learning, Active Learning and Thinking Critically to give the children the skills that they will continue to draw upon throughout their development.

### **Impact**

The impact of our provision and teaching can be seen through the children's progress from their individual starting points. Our children generally enter below national standard and make good progress throughout the year. Pre- covid we have been in line with the national percentage of children achieving a good level of development.

All children will have experienced a curriculum that provides, exciting and inspiring learning opportunities. This will be evident in their enjoyment of learning and their skills set by the end of the year. Children will be explorers, active learners, and think critically and ask thought provoking questions. Children will also be more skilled at solving problems and they will have effectively developed their skills in self-regulation and perseverance. Children will enjoy being part of a class team and the wider school.

Children at the end of Foundation stage will have developed into successful learners and have the essential knowledge and skills required for everyday life and lifelong learning.

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