

Intent

EYFS is the start of our children's journey through Church of the Ascension. It is an important stage where the children develop into active, independent, imaginative and creative learners who are school-ready. Throughout Reception, children will develop an awareness of the wider world and the confidence to reach their full potential within it.

In EYFS, we aim to:

- Provide engaging and ambitious learning experiences that consider the needs and interests of the children.
- Teach the children the knowledge and skills they need to succeed at our school and in their future life.
- Give our children a thirst for knowledge and a desire to learn.
- Encourage the children to recognise and value cultural diversity.
- Provide a stimulating, language-rich learning environment which promotes effective communication and a love of reading.
- Promote and instil Church of the Ascension's school values to enable children to become polite, caring and respectful citizens of the future.
- Work with all stakeholders to make children's start to school positive so that they are happy and healthy.

Our curriculum is carefully designed to lay the foundations to enable the children to successfully progress through each year at school. Our curriculum has been designed with our school and community in mind. We aim for our children to leave the Foundation Stage with a keenness to know more and remember more.

Implementation

At Church of the Ascension, we strongly believe children learn best when they are actively engaged and ready to learn. Positive relationships with both parents and children set solid foundations for a partnership in learning.

In Reception, we implement our intent through:

- Equipping the environment with a wide range of resources for children to access which develops their learning across the seven areas of the EYFS curriculum.
- Providing challenging, structured and unstructured activities to children throughout the day.
- Extending children's experiences and vocabulary through the topics, themes and stories we plan for.
- Regularly assessing children through observations and interactions to swiftly identify any children who may need their knowledge extending or consolidating.
- Summative assessments carried out termly to track children's progress against our curriculum outcomes supported by Development Matters. These outcomes are monitored by the Reception Co-ordinator and EYFS Lead. All children are discussed and targeted during termly pupil progress meetings where next steps are identified and reviewed.
- Early identification of specific children who may need support and targeted interventions, working closely with the school SENDCo.
- Staff delivering regular, high-quality interventions to support children's communication and language and physical development skills. Interventions used include Get Moving, Dough Disco & ELS Phonics
- Adults scaffolding learning to develop engaged, confident and independent children.
- Adults promoting effective communication through commentary and open-ended questions which model rich vocabulary.
- Liaising with all stakeholders both at the start and throughout the child's journey through Reception to ensure everyone is working together to meet the needs of each child.
- Delivering daily phonics sessions through the ELS Phonics programme with additional targeted support for children, where needed.
- Use of 'Phonics Tracker' to inform half termly phonics pupil progress meetings. These are carried out to ensure children are on track and to identify any needing additional 'keep up' sessions.

- Hearing children read individually at least once each week (phonemes, HRS words & books). When children begin to take part in individual/group reading sessions, the books that they read are carefully matched to the both the ELS Phonics programme and the children's ability.
- Delivering and embedding 'Kinetic Letters' handwriting scheme, which supports body strengthening, pencil control and letter formation. Discrete handwriting lessons taught weekly with additional body strengthening and fine motor activities built into CP provision each day.
- Daily maths sessions using NCETM programme, supplemented by additional teacher led shape, space and measure focused sessions. Planned CP enhancements and opportunities to develop their number sense are available throughout the day during play activities.
- Weekly PE lessons in addition to daily PD opportunities. Taught lessons are delivered through the 'Get Set for PE' scheme, which focuses on the EYFS Prime Area of Physical Development (gross motor skills) with targeted teaching to improve core strength needed to support the Prime Areas of development such as writing posture.
- Additional enrichment activities such as off-site trips, visitors and special events, all of which provide opportunities for us to deliver our wider curriculum objectives creatively and purposefully for the children.
- Drama and performance opportunities (Welcome/Christmas/ Easter celebrations) which are designed to not only develop specific areas of learning (speaking, singing, dancing) but also significantly enhances pupils confidence, resilience and collaboration.

At the end of their Reception year, each child is assessed against the early learning goals to provide a profile of their achievements and abilities. These profiles are shared in depth with year one teachers to ensure that these foundations are built upon.

Impact

Our aim is for children to make more than expected progress and leave Reception equipped with a curiosity about life, learning and the wider world.

Through a carefully designed, broad and balanced curriculum the children will have:

- A deep understanding of our school values and how they can demonstrate these in everyday life through their behaviours and relationships.
- Improved communication skills
- A good knowledge of stories and the language used within these.
- The ability to blend and read with improved automaticity.
- Improved gross and fine motor skills.
- Increased numerical abilities appropriate for their age.
- An ability to express themselves confidently and creatively.

With this in place, a solid foundation for the child's journey through school is built. Children will leave Reception and continue their journey at Church of the Ascension with the resilience, self-belief and enthusiasm to be the best they can be.