

Early Years Foundation Stage at Court Lane Infants School

Intent:

At Court Lane Infant School, the child is at the centre of everything we do. Our aim is to create a learning environment and build relationships that support children to flourish, grow in confidence and become lifelong learners regardless of background, circumstance or need, and are ready for the next stage of their educational journey into Key Stage 1 and beyond. Our curriculum is built on prior learning, experiences and personal interests. We work closely with new parents and nursery settings and ensure that transition into school is both a positive experience and successful. We invite a child's curiosity to develop within environments that are engaging and stimulating and enable children to play and explore, learn actively and think critically and creatively. Our school ethos of Every child, Every chance, Every day is embedded within every learning opportunity and encompass our Trust Values of Achieve More, Challenge Thinking and Shape Futures.

Implementation:

The Early Years Curriculum follows the Statutory Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and the Development Matters Guidance, which sets out the seven areas of learning, 3 prime and 4 specific namely:

<u>Prime Areas</u>	<u>Specific Areas</u>
Communication and Language	Literacy
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Mathematics
Physical Development	Understanding the World
	Expressive Arts and Design

Underpinning each area of learning are the Characteristics of Effective Learning: Playing and exploring; Active Learning; Creating and thinking critically.

The curriculum is considered and planned through a thematic approach with a balance of both child initiated and adult directed or initiated learning. Enhancements are planned weekly based on the needs of the children and through our continuous provision and children are provided with tools, resources and space to develop further their own learning. We recognise that children will learn most effectively when they are healthy, safe and secure and when their individual needs are met. We begin by developing positive relationships with each child and a setting that is stimulating and engaging based on their prior learning, experiences and their personal interests. We recognise that the 3 prime areas of learning are the fundamentals to children's success in their learning and for success in later life.

Communication and Language is critical to children's thinking and learning and to children's language development. Key to this development is our approach to qualitative interactions with children and a focus on progressive development of language and vocabulary. We provide children with opportunities to use talk to communicate their thoughts, ideas and partake in valuable relatable conversations and develop their questioning skills.

Phonics is taught through Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Scheme of work and children learn through explicit teaching and repeated practise. Maths is taught through the NCETM Maths Mastery programme of work. Through our continuous provision, children are able to embed skills and knowledge they are taught and are encouraged to take ownership of their own learning with adult interactions to support each child to extend learning further.

Children have opportunities to experience a range of first hand experiences including visiting a farm, an aquarium, take part in dance workshops, meeting members of our local community, walking to the post box to post letters, as well as completing a year long seasonal change study

Impact:

With our creative curriculum and first hand experiences, we provide children with key skills, knowledge, confidence and independence to become lifelong learners. They begin to appreciate and make sense of the world around them and develop a sense of who they are and understand that others may not always have the same views/ likes as them and be sensitive to this. We measure progress through formative and summative assessments, which are based on teacher's knowledge of the child, and observations through photographic and video evidencing uploaded to our Tapestry Learning Journal.

We aim for all children to reach their full potential and make progress in meeting a good level of development through to the Early Learning Goals at the end of the Reception Year. We believe that children at Court Lane Infants will be happy, curious and successful learners.