



Early Years at Ferndale Primary School



INTENT

At Ferndale, we acknowledge and celebrate our diverse school community, recognising that there may be differences in the opportunities and experiences our children have access to outside school. Through our whole school drivers- inspiration, aspiration and inclusion- and one of our school values equality, we believe that all children should be able to achieve their full potential academically, socially and emotionally. Our Early Years equips children with the necessary foundational knowledge and skills to become independent, resilient, motivated learners of the future who can communicate, cooperate and support each other. We aim to foster a love of reading, develop character and ensure skill progression across all seven areas of learning and development, understanding that all are equally important.

IMPLEMENTATION

Using a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities, practitioners plan activities taking into account the different starting points of our children, their interests and needs. Considering the science of learning, prior learning is built upon and concepts are reviewed and revisited in order for children to make links, joins and connections between knowledge, understanding and skills gained in school and the world around them. Early Years staff consider children's understanding and use of language, the different stages of child development and the concept of cognitive overload when planning activities. Through high-quality, language-rich adult interactions and observation, assessments are made of children and alongside analysis of data, activities are planned to address gaps or further challenge individuals. We recognise that children learn best when they are active, understanding that active learning requires quality interactions with others, stimulating resources, and ideas and events that enthuse and engage children for sustained periods of time. Here at Ferndale, we are fortunate to have a vast outdoor space dedicated to Early Years including an additional forest area and an interactive imagination studio. We ensure we utilise our learning environment, indoors and outdoors, to enable opportunities for these vital hands-on learning experiences. Parents are encouraged to share moments from outside school with practitioners so that even further insight can be gained into each child's progress across the different areas of learning.

IMPACT

Assessment data, online learning journeys and children's books (in Reception) demonstrate the knowledge and clear progression of skills acquired over time. Children have increased levels of confidence and independence in preparation for their next phase of learning, demonstrating the three characteristics of effective teaching and learning. Our school values will be demonstrated through the children's behaviour and relationships.

