



## Our Early Years Curriculum Intent

### Intent

At Middlethorpe Primary Academy, we are committed to providing a high-quality early year's education, which gives children a secure and confident start to their school life and nurtures a lifelong love of learning. We are fully committed to the purpose and aims of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and ensure that all children have a balanced and broad curriculum. We believe that all children deserve to be valued as an individual and we are passionate in allowing all children to achieve their full, unique potential.

The Early Learning Goals are the knowledge, skills and understanding in which young children should have acquired by the time they reach the age of five. There are **three prime areas** of learning; Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. In addition, there are **four specific areas** of learning; Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design. To aid the development of our children we strongly believe that they should develop the three prime areas first. This begins with our youngest children aged 2-4 who attend Nursery. Practitioners will also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

### Implementation

In Nursery and Reception, our learning environments are made up of areas which reflect all areas of the curriculum. Here children can make their own choices, encouraging them to play and explore. They can be active learners and are able to create and think critically. Links are made between both indoor and outdoor learning environments, to ensure that all children receive a rich and varied curriculum that supports their learning and development.

### Planning

Our planning has a sharp focus on the children's needs, their interests, and their stages of development. We recognise that the seven areas of learning cannot be delivered in isolation and seek opportunities to make links between them. We aim to deliver the curriculum through planned, purposeful play and present new concepts in meaningful contexts that enable the children to build on what they already know. At Middlethorpe Primary Academy, we deliver a creative curriculum focused on a new theme each term and different weekly topics, supported by high quality texts.

### Effective Teaching and Learning

At Middlethorpe Primary Academy we aim to provide an attractive and challenging environment that offers high quality opportunities for the children to learn through play, both indoor and outdoors. Our outdoors environment is used all year round and is open in most weather conditions. We ensure activities support the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning, ensuring that children are encouraged and supported to investigate, explore, have a go and to develop their own ideas.

Effective continuous provision practice and principles support our children to develop key life skills such as independence, resilience, collaboration, creativity, enquiry and problem solving. During the school day children have the opportunity to work independently as well as working collaboratively with their friends as well as practitioners.

Adult led activities are practical in nature and based on first hand experiences wherever possible. The children are supported to develop problem solving skills through open ended tasks and opportunities to share their thinking with others.

### **Observation and Assessment**

At Middlethorpe Primary Academy, we use a range of strategies to gather information about the children's learning and development and we use this information to ensure that our planning meets the needs of all children. During child initiated learning, practitioners will take photos and upload 'WOW moments' to their individual portfolio's on Class Dojo. From the Spring term, Children develop responsibility for their own learning and upload their completed weekly provision challenges onto their own portfolios using the class iPad.

### **Working in Partnership**

Positive relationships between staff and children, consistent routines and strong relationships with parents are key. We provide regular opportunities for parents and carers to come into school and support their child, share their learning and celebrate successes. We keep parents informed through weekly dojo posts and pictures about what learning has taken place that week. The use of Class Dojo allows parents to engage with their child's learning regularly as well as contributing to the knowledge we have of children in school. It also enables parents to show us what their child is doing in their home environment. At the start of each term, a Newsletter and knowledge organiser is shared with parents to show some of the key vocabulary and learning that will be taking place. Other opportunities to ensure parents are informed of their child's learning and development include; transition sessions, nursery visits, stay and play sessions (Nursery and New starters in Reception), Class Dojo, celebration assemblies, reports and parent consultations as well as frequent informal communication to suit the individual needs of the children and their families.

### **Community Links and the Wider World**

We endeavour to give the children the Cultural Capital they need for future success i.e. giving each child the best start in life enabling them to fulfil their full potential and achieve future success.

### **Impact**

At Middlethorpe Primary Academy we strive for children to reach the Early Learning Goals at the end of Reception and to be in line with the National Expectations.

We measure the percentage of pupils achieving age related expectations throughout the academic year and put supportive interventions in place if and when needed. Teachers use observations to make formative assessments which inform future planning and ensure that children build on their current knowledge and skills at a good pace.

The impact of our curriculum is also measured by how effectively it helps our children to develop into well rounded individuals who embody our school values and carry them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes which will make them lifelong learners and valuable future citizens.