



Our Early Years Curriculum Intent

At Oakdene Primary Academy, we are proud to deliver an **exceptional Early Years curriculum** that is rich in wonder, creativity, and memorable experiences. We believe that **every child is a unique individual**, capable of extraordinary things, and we are committed to ensuring that each child receives the very best start in life.

Our approach combines a **broad and balanced curriculum** with a blend of high-quality, adult-led learning and stimulating child-initiated activities. We know that **play is at the heart of learning**, and our provision reflects this, enabling children to explore, question, and develop a lifelong love of learning.

It is our intent that every child who joins our Early Years setting grows physically, verbally, cognitively, and emotionally, while feeling **safe, secure, and ready to learn**. We place a strong emphasis on **language and communication**, explicitly teaching vocabulary and fostering confident expression. By doing so, we empower children to communicate effectively and thrive in all areas of life.

Our learning spaces are **cosy yet stimulating**, offering exciting opportunities indoors and outdoors that promote challenge, exploration, problem-solving, and adventure. We aim to nurture children who are **confident, resilient, and independent**, who believe in themselves and interact positively with others.

At Oakdene, we are passionate about providing children with the **Cultural Capital** they need for future success. Our academy has a **great reputation for success both locally and nationally**, and we are committed to maintaining these **exemplary standards** for every child. We seek to **improve the life chances of all our children**, ensuring they flourish academically, socially, and emotionally.

Positive relationships between staff and children, consistent routines, and strong partnerships with parents are central to our ethos. We recognise the crucial role that early education plays in laying firm foundations for lifelong learning and achievement. **Education with character** is at the heart of what we do—encouraging children to try new things, persist in the face of difficulty, and develop a thirst for knowledge.

The EYFS Framework

Our curriculum is shaped by the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)** framework, which identifies seven areas of learning and development. These areas are interconnected and equally important, ensuring that children grow academically, socially, emotionally, and physically.

Three prime areas ignite curiosity and enthusiasm for learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

These are strengthened and applied through four specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The characteristics of effective teaching and learning weave through all areas, enabling children to become powerful learners and thinkers. At Oakdene, we plan learning experiences that reflect each child's individual needs and achievements, while offering a wide range of opportunities to ensure progress.

Well-planned play is central to our approach, allowing children to learn with enjoyment and challenge. Through play, they deepen understanding by talking, observing, questioning, experimenting, and reflecting, supported by skilled adults who extend and enrich their learning.

Our environment is thoughtfully designed to reflect all areas of the curriculum, encouraging children to make choices, explore, and think critically. We seamlessly link indoor and outdoor learning to provide a **rich, varied, and exemplary curriculum** that supports every child's development.