



St Aidan's Church of England Primary Academy

EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) Policy

At St Aidan's, children join the Reception class in the academic year that they turn five. In partnership with parents and carers we enable the children to begin the process of becoming active learners for life. We endeavour to ensure that children *"learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe."* We aim to support children in their learning through *"teaching and providing experiences that give children a broad range of skills that provide the right foundation for good progress through school and in life."* (Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2012).

The EYFS is based upon four principles:

- **A unique child** – developing resilient, capable, confident and self-assured individuals.
- **Positive relationships** – supporting the children in becoming strong and independent.
- **Enabling environments** – where opportunities and experiences respond to the individual needs of the child by developing a strong partnership between practitioners, parents/carers and the child.
- **Learning and developing** – an acknowledgement that children learn in different ways and at different rates.

"Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them." (Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage 2012).

A Unique Child

At St Aidan's Primary School we recognise that every child is a competent learner who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. We recognise that children develop in individual ways, at varying rates. Children's attitudes and dispositions to learning are influenced by feedback from others; we use praise and encouragement, as well as celebration assemblies and rewards, to encourage children to develop a positive attitude to learning.

All children and their families are valued at St Aidan's Primary School. Children are treated as individuals and have equal access to all provisions available. We give our children every opportunity to achieve their best. We do this by taking into account our children's range of life experiences when planning for their learning. In the EYFS we set realistic and challenging expectations that meet the needs of all our children.

Positive Relationships

At St Aidan's Primary School we recognise that children learn to be strong and independent through forming secure relationships. We aim to develop caring, respectful, professional relationships with the children and their families. We recognise that parents/carers are children's first and most enduring educators and we highly value the contribution that parents make. We believe that we should work in partnership with parents in order to ensure children reach their full potential.

At St Aidan's Primary School, all children in Reception are put into key worker groups. The main aim of these groups is to build positive relationships. Once these relationships are formed we focus on developing the children's confidence and their communication and language skills. This will promote sustained shared thinking.

Enabling Environments

We aim to create an attractive and stimulating learning environment where children feel confident, secure and challenged. The children have daily access to our indoor and outdoor environments that are set up in discrete areas of learning with planned continuous provision. Within these areas children are able to find and locate equipment and resources independently. The adult's will encourage children to purposefully interact with resources in order to support and extend their learning.

Learning and Development

The Early Years Foundation Stage is made up of seven areas of learning and development. There are three prime areas of learning which are fundamental and underpin the rest of the curriculum. These are Personal, Social & Emotional Development, Communication & Language, and Physical Development. Then there are four specific areas of learning – Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts & Design. In each area there are Early Learning Goals (ELG's) that define the expectations for most children to reach by the end of the EYFS (end of the reception year).

At St Aidan's Primary School: *"Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity. Play is used as an essential part of children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults. There is an on-going judgement to be made by practitioners about the balance between activities led by children, and activities led or guided by adults. Practitioners must respond to each child's*

emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction. As children grow older, and as their development allows, it is expected that the balance will gradually shift towards more activities led by adults, to help children prepare for more formal learning, ready for Year 1." (Statutory Framework for EYFS 2012)

At St Aidan's primary School we support children in using the characteristics of effective learning. These are:

- **Playing and exploring** - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go';
- **Active learning** - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements; and
- **Creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

We make regular assessments of children's learning and we use this information to ensure that future planning reflects identified needs. Assessment in Foundation Stage takes the form of both formal and informal observations. On entry, baseline assessments are made in Reception to give teachers and support staff an understanding of the children's individual abilities in each area of learning. At the end of their foundation year in school the children's progress is recorded on to the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Each child's level of development is recorded against the 17 Early Learning Goals.

This EYFS Policy reflects the ethos, values, practices and mission statement of St Aidan's Primary School and all its stakeholders.

Miss Keegan
February 2021