

St Francis' Catholic Primary School, Goosnargh

Curriculum Intent, Implementation and Impact

St. Francis' Catholic Primary School

LIVING FEELING DREAMING

Living our life as Jesus taught us Feeling the Gospel Values Dreaming of bright futures for all
As children of God, we care for each other and we always try to do our best'

EYFS

At St.Francis' Catholic Primary School the curriculum encompasses our Mission Statement:

Mission Statement

Everyone at St.Francis' Catholic Primary School and Pre-School tries to be like Jesus. We work together to make our school and community a welcoming and happy place to learn. Made in the image of God, we care for each other and we always try to do our best.

EYFS

The Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to 5 years.

Intent:

Our intent is to give each unique child a high-quality early education with high quality care. This is delivered within a safe and nurturing environment which makes a powerful contribution to children's wellbeing, development and learning.

Play, both indoors and outdoors, is rich and we aim to ignite curiosity, awe and wonder of the world to develop the whole child. We provide a stimulating environment that provides exciting opportunities, promotes challenge, exploration, adventure, inclusion and a real love of learning for every child to feel success and happiness.

Every child is recognised as a remarkable individual with a diverse range of experiences and starting points. We celebrate and welcome differences within our school community and we work in partnership with parents and carers to encourage independent, happy learners who thrive in school and reach their full potential from their various starting points.

The ability to learn is underpinned by the teaching of basic skills, knowledge, concepts and values. We provide enhancement opportunities to engage learning and believe that our first experiences of school should be happy and positive, enabling us to develop a lifelong love of learning. We plan with the children and adapt our environment by discovering new lines of development together (PLOD planning) to keep learning exciting and engaging.

The curriculum is flexible, ambitious and carefully sequenced. Adults 'scaffold' children's' learning, modelling new skills and by giving them just enough help to achieve something they could not do independently.

Teaching and exploring new vocabulary has high importance and stimulating experiences develop their communication skills. As such, there is a strong emphasis on the Prime Areas of learning; Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Communication and Language. We use KAPOW to ensure sequenced learning in units of work and we have carefully developed our own knowledge maps and our own skills progression maps to ensure children experience a broad range of learning that precedes what they will build on in KS1.

Our aim is to build on what the children already know and can do. Every child can make progress, if they are given the right support. When we give every child the best start in their early years, we give them what they need today. We also set them up with every chance of success tomorrow.

Children in our Early Years Foundation Stage follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS). We use "Development Matters" and "Birth to 5 matters" as our guidance for checkpoints and to ensure we are providing a child centred approach, supporting the whole child and their families.

Birth to 5 Matters supports our team to implement the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in a pedagogically sound, principled and evidence-based way. Practitioners can then use their professional judgement based on their knowledge of the children in their setting and their wider context including family, community and the setting itself to construct an appropriate curriculum.

The children receive a broad and balanced curriculum that has been meticulously planned and purposefully sequenced across the seven areas of learning in the EYFS. The "Characteristics of Effective Learning" play a vital part in the Early Years Curriculum, highlighting the importance of playing and learning, active learning and critical thinking.

The EYFS seeks to provide:

- quality and consistency in all early years settings, so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind
- a secure foundation through planning for the learning and development of each individual child, and assessing and reviewing what they have learned regularly
- partnership working between practitioners and with parents and/or carers
- equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported

God speaks to us through Jesus. He wants us to have life in all its fullness. We encourage our children and community to grow in love and understanding of God, God's people and God's world and motivate them to help those in need and care for each other, as Jesus Christ taught us to. We foster a dynamic interaction between home, parish and school to provide a happy, caring community in which everyone is valued and included. We support parents as educators of faith.

Our Catholic school ethos is an outward representation of our vision where the Gospel is alive and underpins all aspects of daily school life. We want all of our children to know that they are loved by God and to love God, themselves and each other. Each individual child is resilient, caring and considerate and is fully equipped with the life skills and love of learning to prepare them well for life within and beyond our school.

We see the beauty in everything as we grow together and appreciate our wonderful gifts and talents. We nurture children's gifts and work hard to know and understand each individual child's interests and needs. We search for excellence because our children deserve the very best all round education to develop emotionally, socially, spiritually and academically. We always try our best.

Implementation:

Four guiding principles should shape practice in early years settings.

These are:

- every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships
- children learn and develop well in enabling environments with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.
- high importance of learning and development. Children develop and learn at different rates. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Children learn through play, by adults modelling, by observing each other, and through guided learning and direct teaching. We carefully organise enabling environments for high-quality play. Sometimes, they make time and space available for children to invent their own play. Sometimes, they join in to sensitively support and extend children's learning. Children in the early years also learn through group work, when we guide their learning. A well-planned learning environment, indoors and outside, is vital to the development of the whole child.

Safeguarding is a priority. Our curriculum and environment are carefully planned and organised to provide our children with quality learning experiences that are stimulating, exciting and safe. Regular walk rounds, risk assessments and additions to our bespoke outdoor classroom ensures that the learning taking place is of high quality and purpose.

Each half-term we begin with a theme that allows staff to plan meaningful learning opportunities and which includes input from the children allowing us to follow their interests. Through the themes, we embed cultural capital experiences, SMSC and British Values. We believe that children are more interested and motivated to learn if they have a 'hook' to capture their imagination and an investment in their learning.

We take time to get to know children's interests and their likes to support learning. All areas of the EYFS curriculum are followed and planned for to ensure there is a broad, balanced and progressive learning environment and curriculum.

The children will learn new skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate understanding through the seven areas of the EYFS curriculum.

The EYFS curriculum is based on seven areas of learning :

Prime Areas

communication and language

physical development

personal, social and emotional development

Specific Areas

literacy

mathematics

understanding the world

expressive arts and design

These 7 areas are used to plan children's learning and activities. Planning for this curriculum is designed to be flexible so that a child's unique interests are supported.

During each week, the children will work with adults to complete focused reading and maths sessions and phonics is taught from the start every day.

Our continuous provision is ever changing to inspire and motivate independence and seize every opportunity as a learning opportunity. Continuous provision practise and principles begin in EYFS and support children to develop key life skills such as independence, innovation, creativity, enquiry, analysis and problem solving.

During the school day, children will have an opportunity to work independently, work collaboratively with their friends and with members of staff. Daily guided activities are also planned to cover different areas of the EYFS curriculum and allow children to develop their next steps in learning. Through observation and discussion, areas of need and next steps are identified for all children to ensure good progress is made. There are also a range of stimulating and engaging activities which the children can access independently and a variety of opportunities for child-initiated play.

Staff in the EYFS make regular observations of the children's learning to ensure their next steps are met. These are collected in each child's online Seesaw journal or paper learning journey. We regularly assess where the children are, using 'Development Matters' and then ensure our planning, adult interaction and learning environment; including continuous provision, support children to reach their next steps. We will include interventions for groups or individuals if and when necessary.

The timetable changes throughout the year to take into consideration the changing needs of the children. This means the teacher can systematically check for understanding, identify and respond to misconceptions quickly and provide real-time verbal feedback which results in a strong impact on the acquisition of new learning.

Children in EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside. Our outdoor areas are used all year round and in most weather conditions.

Our exciting approach to teaching phonics and early reading means children are motivated to learn and quickly move through our Bug Club books. Children have access to online Bug Club and they have a love of reading from an early age, using our indoor and outdoor book areas and sheds. They take home books for enjoyment and enjoy being part of author visits and other reading initiatives.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

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;

Creating and Thinking Critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things.

Impact

Baseline (RBA):

Prior to children starting, staff spend time speaking to the child's parents, previous settings and read previous learning journey's to gain an understanding of the whole child and where they are at. During the first half term, all staff use ongoing assessments, observations and conversations with the child to develop a baseline assessment. This identifies each individual's starting points in all areas so we can plan experiences to ensure progress. The following baseline assessments are also carried out.

The RBA (Statutory Reception Baseline Assessment)

This assessment focuses on 'Language, Communication and Literacy,' and 'Mathematics.' The purpose of this is to show the progress children make from Reception until the end of KS2.

NELI (Nuffield Early Language Intervention)

NELI is an evidence-based oral language intervention for children who show weakness in their oral language skills and who are therefore at risk of experiencing difficulty with reading. The assessment informs us if the child is at expected for their age or requires intervention from trained NELI practitioners.

Continuous Observations and interactions:

All ongoing observations are used to inform weekly planning and identify children's next steps. We use a 'feeding forward' weekly map to prepare any enhancements within the environment and further learning and development.

This formative assessment does not involve prolonged periods of time away from the children and excessive paper work. Practitioners draw on their knowledge of the child and their own expert professional judgements through discussions with other practitioners, photographs and physical examples such as a child's drawing / making. Wow moments are recorded via the child's personal Seesaw account or in their individual learning journey.

Assessment:

Phonic assessments are carried out using our termly phonics tracker and individual phonics booklets quickly identify children who are not making expected progress or at risk of falling behind. Our aim is for children to 'keep up' rather than 'catch up' where possible.

Termly assessments for all 7 areas of the curriculum are completed three times per year and shared with parents.

In Summer Term 2, the EYFSP is completed where teachers judge whether the child has met each of the ELG's. They will be assessed as either 'emerging' or 'expected.' Whilst there is no judgement to state if a child is exceeding beyond an ELG, teachers, have a duty to provide a narrative for both parents and the Year 1 teacher.

Children achieve well and staff have excellent knowledge of each child for a smooth transition to Year 1. The core and foundation subjects are carefully planned and our small class sizes mean that children from EYFS are nurtured throughout their whole school life by a team of highly skilled staff.

Parental support and engagement is excellent and 100% report they are happy and feel well supported by school. A high percentage of children reach a good level of development (GLD) by the time they leave EYFS.

Children have high aspirations and have a 'can-do' approach and self-belief. They are happy and confident in our care.