

At Yorkmead, our vision is to create an environment and framework in which children have every opportunity to access a wide, rich and varied curriculum, through which they can thrive and develop into inquisitive, thoughtful and life-long learners.

The Four Principles of EYFS:

- **A unique child.** Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- **Positive relationships.** Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
- **Enabling environments.**
- **Learning and development.**

The EYFS Profile 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

In the Early Years, it is our belief that children should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum that gives them the broad range of knowledge, vocabulary and skills required for their future learning journey.

Quality and consistency in teaching and learning so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind. We believe in close partnerships working between practitioners and with parents and/or carers. Every child is included and supported through equality of opportunity.

Our early years setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the 2021 statutory framework of the EYFS. The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. However, 3 areas known as the prime areas are seen as particularly important for igniting curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building children's capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

The EYFS leader has created a two-year curriculum, covering all areas of learning and including British Values and Reading lessons. The curriculum includes 12 half-termly themes, which is intended to expose our youngest learners to a wide and varied range of topics in order to engage and enthuse from the very foundations of their learning journey.

Both Nursery and Reception follow this curriculum (differentiated for age and ability), ensuring children have access to a rich and varied curriculum; during their time in the early years at Yorkmead. Staff plan activities and experiences for children that enable them to develop and learn effectively, including independently and child initiated.

Our curriculum also encompasses the Characteristics of Effective Learning, which are:

- Playing and Exploring;
- Active Learning;
- Creating and Thinking Critically;

By the end of the Foundation Stage, it is our aim that all of our children have had the opportunity to learn, create, explore and investigate, that they have developed the oracy and vocabulary development to prepare them for their next stage of learning; and that they have acquired the firm foundations required for life-long learning.

Mr. A. Neale-Crane (Assistant Head Teacher)