Early Years Foundation Stage

INTENT

At Church Gresley Infant and Nursery School we are passionate about the importance of placing children at the heart of all that we do. We have designed a curriculum that is flexible, ambitious, exciting and engaging to all children. Play, is a valuable tool in supporting and helping children to develop their self-esteem as well as their communication and language skills.

We provide an environment where children are happy, feel safe and secure, we understand these are key elements in enabling children to develop, both socially and emotionally. Therefore, enabling them to be ready to learn. Quality time is spent teaching children the basic skills and we recognise children who enter our nursery and reception classes, enter with different prior learning and life skills. We value every child as a unique individual, and we celebrate and respect differences within our school community.

Our five core values of; **Independence**, **Resilience, Kindness, Respect** and **Honesty** are interwoven into all that we teach in the early years.

Our aims:
-to work in partnership with parents and carers to support children in their learning journey and to enable children to become happy, independent and resilient learners.
-to understand and follow children's interests.
-provide opportunities for children to have a wide range of experiences both within and outside of our setting.
-to develop children's communication and language skills.
-help children develop a positive sense of themselves and the world around them.
-to create both indoor and outdoor environments which supports and enhances children's learning.
-for all children to make good progress from their starting points.
-to support transition into key stage 1.

Implementation

Staff
All our staff in the early years have up-to-date knowledge of the early years curriculum and understand how children learn. They get to know the children in their care well and ensure that the curriculum meets their individual needs.

Environment
Our environment in both nursery and reception allows the children to free flow inside and outside, allowing them to have access to the early years' curriculum in both areas. The indoors and outdoors provision is well planned by staff and allows children to develop their key skills and explore the world around them.

Our Early Years Curriculum
The Early Years Foundation Stage is based upon seven areas of learning; it is divided into two areas: Prime and Specific.

Prime areas:
Communication and Language – children have access to a language rich environment, widen their vocabulary and develop good speaking and listening skills and are confident to express themselves verbally. This is supported by adults who model good speaking and listening skills.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development – we support children in having a positive sense of themselves and others. We encourage children to interact and play well alongside others and can solve small problems that arise between them.
Physical Development – we encourage children to be active and encourage children to make healthy food choices. We support children in developing their fine and gross motor skills through a wide range of activities.

Specific areas:
Literacy – we teach phonics by following 'Essential Letters and Sounds', it is important children learn to read and write. We promote the love of reading throughout early years and offer a wide selection of reading materials which are based around children's interests.
Mathematics – we provide learning opportunities for children to develop their understanding of number, measurement, pattern, shape and space by providing a wide range of activities in which they can explore, learn, practise, talk and most of all enjoy working with numbers and shapes.
Understanding the World –we support children in being curious about the world around them and encourage them to use their investigation skills to find out more about their immediate environment and who/what we share it with. Children have the opportunity to find out about different environments, cultures and religions. We encourage children to talk about their own experiences.
Expressive Arts and Design – we give children opportunities to be creative through activities like drawing, painting, music, and imaginative play. It helps them build confidence, develop their ideas, and express themselves in ways that feel natural and enjoyable.

Our Curriculum is also designed to support the **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.

Continuous Provision
Effective continuous provision and enhanced learning support children in developing their love of learning. Continuous provision enables our children in developing key life skills of independence, perseverance, exploration, problem solving and creativity.

Parent/Carer Partnership
At Church Gresley Infant and Nursery School we value strong partnerships with parents and carers. It is important we work together to support children with their learning journey throughout our school, this begins before children have their first day in our school. This includes transition sessions, home visits, nursery and reception visits, stay and play sessions.

SEND

Here at Church Gresley Infant and Nursery School our early years provision follows the statutory requirements of the SEND Code of Practice and the EYFS framework, placing strong emphasis on early identification and timely intervention to support children with emerging needs. We use simple, effective assessment approaches to understand each child's development and adapt teaching where progress is not as expected, ensuring assessments remain purposeful and child-centred. Our environment is designed to be inclusive, offering visual supports, clear routines and quiet, regulated spaces that remove barriers to learning in line with EYFS and SEND Code of Practice principles. We work in close partnership with parents and carers, providing clear information on SEND processes and involving families throughout the assess-plan-do-review cycle. Our SENCO Mrs S Hackett ensures coordinated support across the setting, fulfilling statutory expectations for Early Years providers. Through ongoing staff training and working closely with external specialists, we are committed to ensuring every child receives the right support at the right time, enabling them to thrive and make meaningful progress.

IMPACT

The impact of the Early Years curriculum is reflected in the development of our happy, confident and independent learners. We make four summative assessments across the year to monitor and support the progress of all our children. Where children are not making the expected progress extra support is put into place. All the early years staff understand the importance of early help in supporting our young learners. Our curriculum focuses heavily on the need for early strong communication skills as well as helping children develop their social and physical skills. These skills lay the foundations for future learning.

Our nursery children come into reception being 'school ready' and reception children are ready for the next stage of learning as they enter key stage 1.