



St. Gregory's Catholic Primary School

Early Years Curriculum Overview

Planning in Reception is driven by the document 'The Practice Guidance for Early Years Foundation Stage'. The document identifies seven areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes/plans in early years' settings. All areas of learning are important and inter-connected. The first three areas, known as 'Prime Areas' are crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. There are also four 'Specific Areas' through which the 'prime areas' are strengthened and applied. As a faith school we include Religious Education (RE) as the eighth and most important area of learning.

PRIME AREA 1—Communication, Language Development (C&L)

This area involves giving the children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

PRIME AREA 2—Physical Development (PD)

This area involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

PRIME AREA 3—Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

This area involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

SPECIFIC AREA 1 Literacy—(Lit)

This area of development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

SPECIFIC AREA 2 Mathematics – (Mat)

This area involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.

SPECIFIC AREA 3 Understanding The World - (UW)

This area involves guiding the children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

SPECIFIC AREA 4 Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

This area involves enabling the children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

As we are a Catholic school we also plan for Religious Education using the curriculum recommended by our diocese, the 'Come and See' Programme. Foundation Stage has its own specific aims and objectives based on the age and development of the children.

The outdoor environment is used to teach or enhance understanding in all of the areas above. Children will access the outdoors in all types of weather.