



Early Years Foundation Stage

Intent

At Blackford C of E Primary School, we believe that all children deserve an education rich in memorable experiences that allows our children's creativity and curiosity to grow, alongside the development of key skills and knowledge. We believe that offering our children a strong foundation and a love of learning gives children the best chance to become well-rounded, independent, happy individuals, ready to succeed in an ever-changing world. It is our intention to provide a stimulating, safe and active learning environment where all children can work with adults and peers in a climate of mutual respect to develop confidence in their ability to learn. We ensure they meet their learning goals by following the EYFS Framework. This includes the seven areas of learning and development that are equally important and interconnected. The three areas known as prime areas of learning are important for developing enthusiasm and a positive attitude to learning and building children's capacity to learn and form relationships.

The Prime Areas are:

Communication and Language

Physical Development

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The prime areas are strengthened and applied through 4 specific areas:

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design



We work in partnership with parents, carers and other settings to provide the best possible start at Blackford C of E Primary School, ensuring individuals reaches their full potential from their various starting points. We believe that following children's interests and ideas foster a lifelong love of learning both in and outside of school. We want our children to move into Key Stage One as happy, independent, confident, resilient learners, excited to continue their learning journey.

Implementation:

At Blackford School, we recognise that children will learn most effectively when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met and when they have positive relationships with the adults who care for them. We provide a setting that encompasses a safe and stimulating environment where children are able to enjoy learning and grow in confidence that helps them to achieve their potential. Pupils learn through a balance of child initiated and adult directed activities. The timetable to carefully structured so that children have directed teaching in maths using White Rose, phonics using Read Write Inc and Talk Through Story sessions every day. This focused group time means the adults can check the children's understanding, identify and respond to misconceptions quickly, provide verbal feedback which may also link to the child's next steps in learning to help give a little challenge. We also constantly develop the children's vocabulary which results in a strong impact on the development of new learning.

Teaching in our EYFS covers many different ways in which the adults help our youngest children to learn. Adults may comment, model language, show, explain, demonstrate, explore ideas, recall, encourage, question, provide a narrative, facilitate and challenge through their interactions in planned and child-initiated play and activities as well as more guided learning, both indoors and outdoors. We feel this helps to build the foundation of the children's learning skills, knowledge and understanding of the curriculum, so that they can apply this learning to child-initiated activities and continuous provision. We also have a strong emphasis on our school values, especially our core values of Compassion, Forgiveness and Trust and these are applied in different opportunities.



The curriculum is planned for within the inside and outside classrooms and equal importance is given to learning in both areas. The curriculum is planned in a cross- curricular way to enable all aspects of the child's development including Understanding the World, Expressive Art and Design as well as to promote vocabulary and active learning. Our timetable is very flexible, and we will alter plans if the children express a specific interest in a certain area or topic.

Throughout Nursery and Reception, our children are assessed in relation to their progress towards Development Matters and the Early Learning Goals. These judgments are made on the basis of accumulative observations through play and in-depth knowledge of the children acquired through ongoing assessments, discussions with the children. Some observations, photographs are uploaded using Tapestry and shared with the supporting parents and carers. All of which contribute as well as our in-depth knowledge of each individual child to completing the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile at the end of the child's fantastic journey in our EYFS. The End-of-year assessments are finalised during the summer term, summarising each child's development at that point against the Early Learning Goals and Development Matters.

Impact:

Our children will be actively engaged in their learning, this will be apparent in their daily provision, which supports the children's development across the seven areas of learning. All children will have experienced a curriculum that provides exciting, enjoyable and enriching learning experiences and opportunities for them to learn through our local area and people, educational visits and practical experiences. Our young learners will be able to appreciate and understand the world around them by experiencing and learning about different and diverse cultures, celebrations, music, dance, art and history. Our Early Years children will be successful learners and fully prepared for the next stage of their education as they transition from the Early Years Foundation Stage into Key Stage One. We believe the children at Blackford CE Primary School will be happy, inquisitive and successful learners who will develop the building blocks for a bright and successful futures.