



Intent, Implementation and Impact Statement for Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum is carefully designed to nurture the whole child – inspiring curiosity, creativity and a lifelong **love** of learning. In line with *EYFS Statutory Framework (DfE, 2024)*, we place a strong emphasis on developing the *prime areas* of learning – particularly 'Communication and Language', which is recognised as fundamental to all other areas of development.

Communication and language is the 'golden thread' that underpins all areas of our learning, enabling children to express themselves, be critical and **aspirational**, and to become **empathetic** and articulate communicators. Through thoughtful planning, high quality interactions, and responsive teaching, we ensure every child is supported and challenged appropriately, equipping them with **confidence** to achieve and **be the best they can be** now and in the future.

Intent	Implementation	Impact
<p>At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, our Reception year is valued for providing strong foundations on which every child is equipped to REACH in their Reception year, throughout Primary and Secondary and beyond. We strive to create an inclusive, nurturing and inspiring environment where all children – including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) can thrive, explore, and achieve their full potential with confidence and a joy in learning.</p> <p>Our intent is to deliver a curriculum that is creative, play-based and discovery-rich, enabling children to learn through first hand experiences both indoors and outdoors, acquiring and refining their enquiry and practical skills as well as becoming personally and socially confident individuals who are inspired to drive their own learning forward.</p> <p>We focus on developing the three prime areas which are building blocks for aspirational learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and Language – fostering attentive listening, understanding, and expressive communication through meaningful dialogue, storytelling, and active engagement. Children build a rich vocabulary and develop the ability to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas with confidence. • Physical Development – strengthening gross and fine motor control, coordination, and spatial awareness while promoting self care, health and well-being. Through active play and movement, children build stamina, balance, and resilience that underpin readiness for writing and focused learning. • Personal, Social and Emotional Development – nurturing resilience, empathy, independence, and emotional intelligence. Children build positive relationships, manage their feelings, and develop a 	<p>At St. Joseph's our learning experiences are intentionally sequenced and adapted to meet individual needs, with skilled practitioners scaffolding learning to help children grow in confidence, independence and resilience through the inclusive environment, provision and teaching. This reflects the EYFS Foundational Skills in Personal, Social and Emotional Development, supporting children's self regulation, sense of self, and positive relationships.</p> <p>Our school delivers a well-sequenced and embedded phonics programme via Unlocking Letters and Sounds, offering a consistent and progressive approach for reading and early literacy development, underpinning the Foundational Skills of Literacy, ensuring all children develop strong decoding, comprehension and fluency skills, alongside a love of reading.</p> <p>We are embedding Talk Through Stories for our Literacy and Communication and Language provision, enhancing exposure and deepening confidence with richer vocabulary, where a ShREC approach is embedded within our classroom - strengthening the children's listening, attention and understanding as recognised by the Foundational Skills for effective communication and language development.</p> <p>The delivery of mathematics through Mastering Number and White Rose Maths (shape, space and measure) provides children with strong foundations in Mathematics, developing number sense, spatial reasoning and problem-solving. These experiences ensure understanding of number, shape and patterns is securely embedded for resilient maths skills in Key 1 and beyond.</p>	<p>At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, our EYFS curriculum is designed to provide strong foundations for children's learning and development in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework.</p> <p>Through our progressive, adaptive and inclusive approach all children have the opportunities to explore, investigate, and engage with a wide range of activities that support their physical, social, emotional and cognitive growth, building skills across the Prime Areas of Learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and Language (CL) • Physical Development (PD) • Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) <p>Our children demonstrate characteristics of effective learning - they are; happy curious, confident and resilient. They show how they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play and explore by actively engaged new experiences, • Actively learn through persistence and enjoyment in their tasks, and • Create and think critically by developing their own ideas and strategies. <p>Children are encouraged to explore new ideas and develop skills that prepare them for the next stage of their education with high expectations in all areas, including the Specific Areas of Learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy • Mathematics • Understanding the World

<p>strong sense of belonging, self-worth, and motivation to achieve.</p> <p>These prime areas are strengthened and extended through the four specific areas of learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy – developing a lifelong love of stories, books, and language. Children engage in purposeful mark making, phonics, and early reading and writing experiences that build strong communication and literacy foundations. • Mathematics – fostering curiosity and confidence in exploring numbers, patterns, shapes, and measures through hands on practical experiences that build critical thinking and problem-solving skills. • Understanding the World – supporting children making sense of their community children to make sense of their community, environment, and wider world through exploration, observation, enquiry, and discovery (“I see, I notice, I wonder”). This encourages awareness, empathy, and respect for diversity and creation. • Expressive Arts and Design – inspiring creativity, imagination, and motivation through art, music, movement, storytelling, and role play. Children learn to experiment, express themselves, and build resilience and pride in their creative achievements, and role play. <p>Our inclusive EYFS curriculum ensures that every child’s interests, experiences, and developmental needs are recognised, valued and supported. Through careful observation, assessment, and adaptive teaching, we ensure that all children – including those with SEND - are both challenged and supported to make excellent progress from their unique starting points.</p> <p>Through purposeful play, high-quality adult interactions, and an enabling environment, we aim for all children to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop strong foundations in communication, physical confidence, emotional wellbeing, and cognitive skills that enable aspirational. • Become confident, independent, curious, and resilient learners who can think critically and collaborate effectively. • Embody our school virtues of faith, hope and love, and school values of resilience, empathy, aspiration, confidence and high expectations 	<p>We provide curriculum-enriched learning experiences such as Teddy Bear passports for the children to complete and share in Autumn Term 1, a day trip to Slimbridge Wetlands Trust and welcome visitors to school including: a published author <i>Sian Hughes (2025)</i> inspirational PE leaders like <i>Skippy John (2025)</i> and <i>Bounce (2024)</i>, local fire service, connections with a vet and penpal links to a school in America (Blowing Rock in North Carolina). These opportunities promote Foundational Skills in Understanding the World by offering memorable, real-world and meaningful connection to our topics.</p> <p>Children enjoy hands on experiences (to see, notice and wonder) such as observing an ant farm and caterpillars transform to butterflies – engaging curiosity, critical thinking and awe in the natural world. These moments nurture Understanding the World and Expressive Arts ad Design, encouraging observation, reflection and creativity.</p> <p>Our classroom is a nurturing, stimulating and spacious environment that promotes active, hands on learning both indoors and outdoors. Continuous provision opportunities mirror and complement each other across both settings, supporting children’s holistic development through play, exploration and purposeful experiences that reflect the EYFS Foundational Skills.</p> <p>We provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high-quality provision and environment equipping learners through a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities, promoting independence, collaboration and problem-solving. • An outdoor area that is gross motor focused, allowing children to build strength, coordination and control through activities such as den building, digging, bikes, big tyres and large scale construction play. These experiences support and extend fine and gross motor development (foundation skill for Physical Dvelopment), preparing children for early writing and other fine motor and physical skills. • Outdoor learning experiences, such as fires and story time, exploring our nature world and observing seasonal changes. Activities such as apple picking, planting and nature walks enhance Understanding the World, and provide meaningful links to our curriculum while nurturing language, curiosity and care for the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressive Arts and Design <p>Our regular and consistent assessment is purposeful and informed, shaping future teaching and ensuring progress for every child. Assessment informs targeted interventions to address misconceptions, close gaps, and meet individual needs or Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), ensuring inclusive progress for all learners.</p> <p>We are proud of the trusting relationships we build with our parents and carers, who play a vital role in supporting foundational learning at home. They are actively involved in their child’s learning journey, invited throughout the year to observe and celebrate achievements – formally through parents’ evenings and informally through teddy bear picnics, mystery reader sessions, parent readers, and story time at the convent. This strong home-school partnership ensures children feel supported and valued, boosting their confidence, communication, and emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>Children make excellent progress across all areas of learning, developing essential skills and knowledge that provide a firm foundation for lifelong learning – such as early phonological awareness, number sense, self-regulation and fine and gross motor control. By fostering curiosity, independence, aspiration and a love of learning, we ensure our children are well-prepared to move confidently into Key Stage 1 – shining as individuals being the best they can be.</p>
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equipping them to be ready for Key Stage 1 and beyond.	Our provision values outdoor exploration, physical activity and emotional wellbeing as much as academic readiness. The inclusive and stimulating environment ensures every child feels confident , capable and ready for the next of stage of their learning journey – secure in the Foundational Skills that underpin success across all areas of the EYFS and beyond.	
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