

At Millbrook Primary School and Nursery, we aim to provide the highest quality care and education for all of our children, thereby giving them a strong foundation for their future learning. We create a safe and happy environment with motivating and enjoyable learning experiences that enable children to become confident and independent learners. We value the individual child and work alongside parents and carers to meet children's individual needs and help every child to reach their full potential.

As outlined in the EYFS 'Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances.'

We adhere to the Statutory Framework of the EYFS and the four guiding principles that shape practice within Early Years settings.

- Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
- Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.
- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

### **Principles into practice**

As part of our practice we:

- Provide a balanced curriculum, covering the seven areas of development, using play as the vehicle for learning.
- Promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.
- We provide early intervention for those children who require additional support.
- Work in partnership with parents and within the wider context.
- Plan challenging and enjoyable learning experiences, based on the individual child, informed by observation and assessment.
- Provide opportunities for children to engage in a range of activities that are based upon their needs and/or interests.
- Have a key person approach to develop close relationships with individual children.
- Provide a secure and safe learning environment indoors and out.

### **Foundation Stage Curriculum**

We plan an exciting and challenging curriculum based on our observation of children's needs, interests, and stages of development across the seven areas of learning to enable children to achieve and exceed the early learning goals. All the seven areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas are the Prime areas:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Teaching and learning in EYFS is also based upon four Specific areas; through these, the three Prime areas are further strengthened and applied.

The Specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

### **Characteristics of Effective Learning**

We promote the Characteristics of Effective Learning by providing children with a range of rich, meaningful first-hand experiences in which children explore, think creatively and are actively learning. We aim to develop and foster positive attitudes towards learning, confidence, communication and physical development. We support children in using the three characteristics of effective teaching and learning.

These are:

- **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; and
- **creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.