



St. John's CE Primary School
Wetley Rocks

Early Years Foundation Stage
Intent, Implementation, Impact.

“Shine like the star you are.”

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl, instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16

Our Values

Strength: have the strength to stand up for what is right. Be a courageous advocate.

Hope: to be people of hope. Have hope when times are dark and difficult. Keep positive and be resilient – there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Individuality: embrace and celebrate our differences. God made us all unique and this is a very special thing.

Nature: cherish, care for, encourage and protect everything in God’s world - including yourself.

Excel: fulfil your God given potential; be the best you can be. Shine like the star you are.

Early Years Intent

At St. John's CE Primary School, our aim within the Early Years is to provide an enriching play-based curriculum, which is fun, motivating and challenging for all children and centered around their needs. By the time the children leave our Early Years unit, we aim to ensure that they have achieved their full potential across all 7 areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and developed into confident, independent and inquisitive learners, who are inspired to be lifelong learners and prepared for the challenges of the National Curriculum in Year 1.

Creating an inspiring and supportive learning environment is key and at St John's, the learning environment is viewed as the third teacher. It is carefully planned and resourced in order to be both supportive and encouraging, as well as allowing the children to become independent learners who are critical thinkers, problem solvers, creative learners and skillful communicators.

The EY Curriculum and St John's Values:

Strength: At St John's, we aim to give to all children the strength and skills to explore the environment and challenge their understanding independently, along with being confident to extend their learning. All members of the Early Years team will support children in gaining this inner strength to engage with their learning. Children will have the strength to understand right from wrong and understand the importance of working together to create a harmonious and happy learning environment.

Hope: Through the carefully planned learning environment and learning opportunities, all children during their time in the Early Years will become resilient learners, who relish the challenge learning new skills and concepts presents. Pupils will be supported and encouraged to try their best and persevere in order to practice and refine new skills across all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Individuality: Within the Early Years, children will develop their confidence to share their knowledge, understanding and skills with their peers and teachers and take their learning in new directions. Children will be confident to follow their own learning path and to explore and share their interests, while understanding that not everyone shares the same interests and skills. The intention is that pupils will be inspired to work towards becoming life-long learners.

Nurture: At St. John's we want to create learners who show kindness, compassion and respect for others and our environment. Throughout the Early Years, children will understand the importance of working together to nurture our school environment through caring for their peers and resources and through their experiences in forest school. Children will celebrate the achievements of others, no matter how small, which will boost self-esteem and create positive, nurturing learning environments throughout the school day.

Excel: The Early Years curriculum at St John's is enjoyable, stimulating and engaging. It provides all children with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills to reach their educational potential and have the drive and confidence to be the best they can be throughout their time in the Early Years and beyond.

Implementation:

At St John's CE Primary School, the Early Years staff work together to research, plan and deliver engaging, motivating, and exciting play-based learning opportunities based on the 7 areas of learning. All learning opportunities are designed to not only ensure that the majority of our pupils leave the Early Years with a Good Level of Development and that all pupils make expected progress from their starting point, but also that children feel supported and encouraged to extend their learning and understanding.

Children in EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside. Our outdoor areas are used all year round and in most weather conditions and are an extension of the inside learning environment.

Our curriculum follows the Early Years Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and uses the Development Matters 2023 and the Early Learning Goals as a basis. These documents specify the requirements for learning and development in the EYFS. We have used these to develop our curriculum to ensure that we deliver a carefully planned and progressive curriculum.

The EYFS team use formative assessment and their knowledge of each child to plan the exciting and engaging activities that will capture the children's curiosity and move their learning and development forward, as well as giving them a context for their learning. Individual children's interests and prior learning are also considered during the planning process and all staff seek and seize opportunities where the teaching and learning can be maximised and reinforced with the teacher as the facilitator.

Evidence of children's learning is collected by the Early Years staff through observing the children in the learning environment. These observations are recorded using the Tapestry online learning journey and are used to identify next steps in each child's learning and feed into planning and formative assessments throughout the year. All members of the Early Years team will know and understand where every child is in their learning journey and how to support them to ensure they stay on track to achieve their potential.

Parental/carer involvement is encouraged within the Early Years and all parents/carers have the opportunity to engage with their child's learning through teacher observations on Tapestry and by having the opportunity to add observations from home, which contributes to the knowledge we have of the child in school. Parental/carer involvement is key to ensure all children are supported to reach their educational potential and feel emotionally secure when in the school environment to embrace the learning opportunities presented.

At St John's, Early Years practice is planned in line with guidelines and supports the concept of continuous provision, free-flow, outdoor learning, purposeful pedagogy, high quality learning conversations and an engaging and developing learning environment. Young children learn best through real and purposeful experiences and active learning, and as a result for much of the school day, children have the opportunity to learn through play.

During the foundation years, the children will experience learning through a variety of methods:

Whole class Focused Activity: The children all work together with a teacher or a teaching assistant.

Adult Focused Activity: The children will work with a teacher or teaching assistant in a small group of between 4 and 6 children. Adult led sessions ensure learning and teaching is age appropriate, provides

opportunities for learning to be supported or extended and enables misconceptions to be identified and addressed.

Self-Initiated Activity/Continuous provision: The children access learning activities of their choice to engage in. A carefully planned continuous provision environment and resources enable children to learn skills, challenge their thinking and help them to embed concepts.

Lessons and planning are monitored to ensure that our curriculum is implemented for the good of our children and that it impacts positively on their emotional and educational well-being and progress.

We provide effective, age-appropriate and focused interventions for any children who need support and are not on track to meet national expectations at the end of the year to enable them to make expected progress. This is provided in an inclusive and flexible manner depending on the needs of the individual children. Support from parents is also enlisted at an early stage to ensure that the children have every chance to achieve the Early Learning Goals.

Impact:

The Early Years Curriculum at St John's Primary School has a positive impact on pupils supporting them to become happy, independent, and resilient learners, with a strong sense of self and inbuilt curiosity. All children will have the opportunity to develop good learning behaviours and will have formed positive relationships with their peers and adults.

By the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, our children will be equipped with skills that will give them a foundation for future learning. Children will demonstrate positive attitudes to their learning, take pride in their work and recognise their achievements. Children will have developed into well rounded individuals who embody our school values and would have made strong progress during their time in the Early Years.

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