

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage is a special and important part of every child's "learning journey". It allows time for children to explore and engage with the world at their own pace. It supports children as they make connections, build relationships and become confident in themselves and their skills. It provides new experiences and challenges. It encourages children to develop their own ideas and follow their own initiative. It also lays the foundation of key literacy and numeracy skills necessary for future learning.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning and the prime and specific Areas of Learning and Development are all interconnected. There are seven areas of learning in the EYFS curriculum - three prime areas and four specific areas.

Prime Areas:

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

Specific areas:

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

These seven areas of learning are equally important and depend upon each other to support a rounded approach to a child's development. All the areas are delivered through planned, purposeful play, which is predominantly child-led. We aim to harness children's natural curiosity and motivation, and to capitalise on their strengths and interests in order to promote positive attitudes to learning. We encourage children to be independent, confident and resilient. These attributes will provide a strong foundation for future learning.

The Learning Environment

The EYFS classroom is organised to allow children to explore and learn securely and safely. There are areas where the children can be active, be quiet and rest. The classroom is set up in learning areas, where children are able to find and locate equipment and resources independently. The EYFS class has its own enclosed outdoor area. This has a positive effect on the children's development. Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors. It offers the

children a chance to explore, use their senses and be physically active and exuberant. We plan activities and resources for the children to access outdoors on a free-flow basis, that help the children to develop in all seven areas of learning.

Play

Through play our children explore and develop learning experiences, which help them make sense of the world. They practise and build up ideas, and learn how to control themselves and understand the need for rules. They have the opportunity to think creatively alongside other children as well as on their own. They communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems. They express fears or re-live anxious experiences in controlled and safe situations.

At Charlwood Village Primary School we recognise that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending the children's development. This begins by observing the children and assessing their interests, development and learning, before planning challenging but achievable activities and experiences to extend the children's learning.

Observation, Assessment and Planning

The Planning within the EYFS is based around half termly themes. These plans are used by the EYFS teacher as a guide for weekly planning, but the teacher may alter these Medium Term Plans (MTPs) in response to the needs (achievements and interests) of the children. This will be indicated on the weekly planning.

We make regular assessments of children's learning and we use this information to ensure that future planning reflects identified needs. Assessment in the EYFS takes the form of observation, and this involves the teacher and other adults as appropriate. These observations are recorded in children's individual 'Learning Journey' folders/Tapestry app. They also contain information provided by parents and other settings.