

'Early Years Statement of Intent.'

Intent

At St Luke's, we believe that the Early Years Foundation Stage is crucial in securing solid foundations that children are going to continue to build upon. It is our intent that the children who enter our EYFS develop physically, verbally, cognitively and emotionally whilst embedding a positive attitude to school and learning. We believe that all children deserve to be valued as an individual and we are passionate in allowing all children to achieve their full, unique potential. With all of this in mind, we begin each new year by looking at the individual needs of our children and – taking into account their different starting points- we then carefully develop our flexible EYFS Curriculum which enables them to follow the path of their learning journey, at a point, that is suitable for their unique needs and stage of development.

Implementation

Children in the Reception classes follow the EYFS curriculum, which has seven main areas of learning.

The Prime Areas:-

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

The Specific Areas:-

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts

The teaching of these areas of learning is practical and playful with support and challenge from adults in class sessions, small group sessions and working with individuals. There is a combination of adult-led, teacher taught sessions as well as a wealth of stimulating continuous provision opportunities. Throughout all of these areas of learning and at the heart of the EYFS Curriculum are the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning'. At St Luke's we strive to develop these key characteristics of 'Playing and Learning', 'Active Learning' 'Thinking Critically' in order to give the children the skills that they will continue to draw upon throughout their development. All of the crucial skills, knowledge and vocabulary that we teach are presented to the children throughout the year which encompasses a range of topics, which are designed with their interests in mind. A vital part of the Curriculum design and topics is therefore the transition period before the children enter our classrooms and where we get to know more about them and their interests.

Our learning environments, both inside and outside are also adapted regularly to meet the different and developing needs of the children in our care. We aim to ensure that these areas are always stimulating and exciting and that, importantly, they are accessible to all children, regardless of where they are on their learning journey. The environments are developed to promote independence within our children and allow them to access the curriculum independently and confidently with the necessary level of support and challenge.

Impact

Within our EYFS Curriculum, children are assessed continuously through accurate and important observations. These provide us with information for future planning, not only for our individual classes but also for individual children's next steps in their learning. They enable us, as EYFS practitioners, to ensure learning is embedded and consistent and that all children continue to make outstanding progress within our EYFS setting.

At St Luke's, we strongly believe that the beginning of our children's educational journey is imperative for igniting the flame for learning.