



What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

**At Holy Name Catholic Primary School we aim to live by our motto
'Shine like the stars'**

The Early Years Foundation Stage is a distinct stage for children aged from birth to the end of their reception year (the year in which they have turned 5).

The Foundation Stage policy at Holy Name Catholic Primary School applies to all children joining us between the ages of 3 and 5 years old. These children are all part of the Early Years Foundation Stage, and are Foundation 1 (which is Nursery) until the year in which they become 5 years old, when they move onto the Foundation 2 of their education (Reception class) .





Our Intention

At Holy Name Catholic Primary School, it is our intention for children to develop knowledge and skills to become independent learners. We want them to be curious, inquisitive and resilient learners.

We want to build on what children can already do and develop their skills further for future opportunities.

We want children to develop at a pace that suits their individual needs, within a setting with stimulating environments, with awe and wonder opportunities.

We believe:

- children learn best when they work with supportive adults, who follow their interests.

- having interesting, stimulating and challenging opportunities made available to our children;

- offer daily routines which encourage independence and resilience;

- develop positive relationships with peers and adults;

- provide opportunities to refine their skills, develop their understanding and celebrate their achievements.

As an EYFS staff we have high expectations of all our children. We use our knowledge of child development to provide a consistent approach to teaching and learning within our setting.



Implementation

Reading is key to all learning; so reading and phonics takes a high priority in our daily sessions. Reading is presented in different forms to encourage a love of books and to develop vocabulary in order to succeed with Language.

We build on what children can already do and know and incorporate opportunities for children to become resilient, independent, creative learners and thinkers.

The Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the curriculum followed by Nursery and Reception, and covers seven areas of learning.

The Prime Areas of Learning:

- 1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- 2. Communication and Language**
- 3. Physical Development**

These three prime areas are interconnected and fundamental for awakening a child's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and to thrive.

Specific Areas of Learning:

- 1. Literacy - Reading and Writing**
- 2. Mathematics – Numbers, Shape, Space and Measure**
- 3. Understanding the World – People and Communities, the World, and Technology**
- 4. Expressive Arts and Design**

These four specific areas include essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society. They provide important contexts for learning and, through them, the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.



Impact of our curriculum

Every child is unique and is constantly learning in different ways, to become confident, capable and resilient learners.

Through positivity children can develop independent relationships with peers and adults.

Children can learn in an environment which reflects their needs and interests.

The needs of all children including SEND can be met with high quality teaching and opportunities for support and intervention.

Parents are informed and valued. Communication with families is via our school app and their contribution towards their child's learning is encouraged.

We work together to produce an individual Learning Journey for each child within EYFS at Holy Name Catholic Primary School.

Planning, Observation and Assessment

All children will be assessed through systematic observation which will inform the teacher's planning.

Assessment

On entry to Foundation Stage we establish starting points for our children in EYFS. Ongoing formative assessment and summative assessment is established and reviewed each term. This informs teaching and learning.

This will be for individual pupils and small groups.



Equal Opportunities/ British Values with the first 6weeks

The Foundation Stage will be taught in accordance with the present Equal Opportunities policy for Holy Name Catholic Primary School. Additionally, as a multi culturally rich society, we aim to help children to develop a positive attitude towards all of their peers, inclusive of ethnic groups, cultures, beliefs, genders and abilities.

- Cultures will be shared, celebrated and experienced by all.
- Resources and learning experiences will be accessible to all children.
- Displays will, where possible, have evidence of multi language signs and captions.
- Children will be given opportunities to discuss, share and celebrate their ideas and experiences with their peers.

Special Educational Needs

The children in Foundation Stage are carefully monitored to ensure that they make the best possible progress. Early intervention is 'key', and children are highlighted very quickly if it is felt that they may benefit from some extra intervention.

Parents are regularly kept informed of their child's progress and are encouraged to support and help their child's learning. This is promoted by home school learning books and our Stay and Play sessions for Reception children.



Role of parents

Parents are encouraged to take an active part in their child's education. A home/school contract is signed and discussed upon entry to school so that everyone knows the part they can play in a child's education.

We are always grateful if parents are able to give up some of their time to help with activities during school time, but we understand that this is not always an option for some parents due to work and family commitments. We understand the role parents play in their child's education and the role they have to play in the future.

We value their contribution and try to encourage them by:

- Talking to parents prior to their child starting school during pre-arranged
- 'Home Visits' for Nursery children.
- Opportunities are given for children to spend time with their teacher prior to starting school.
- Parents are invited to an induction meeting prior to their child starting school.
- Parents are invited to 'Stay and Play' sessions each term to discuss any concerns and to contribute to their child's Profile.
- Having flexible admission times to ensure the needs for all are catered for.
- Offering activities throughout the year to ensure collaboration between home school and child.
- Providing activities that involve parents e.g. through home school books and diaries profile.

Twice a year we hold Parents' Evenings for the children, and an open day for parents to look at their Profile books and for new parents to view the setting. We view Parental involvement and contribution as essential and this promoted through home school learning books and our Stay and Play sessions for Reception children.