

Canon Popham C of E Primary Academy

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum Statement of Intent

Intent

The Foundation Stage at Canon Popham C of E Primary Academy is a caring and nurturing environment, where all children are encouraged to become independent and confident learners, who thrive in school and reach their full potential from their various starting points.

Our curriculum enables children to learn across our school's 4 key themes:

- Learning about myself
- Learning to be my best
- Learning how to learn
- Learning for my future

Through a balance of exploratory, play based activities and whole class/group teaching children are encouraged to explore concepts and develop their substantive and disciplinary knowledge. The Foundation Stage staff carefully plan activities and learning experiences based on children's interests, themes, next steps and the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

At Canon Popham, we recognise communication and language not only improves academic outcomes, but is a life skill to ensure success and well-being beyond school and is therefore an integral part of our curriculum. Language develops children's thinking and understanding, which in turn promotes self-confidence, resilience and empathy which support the child's well-being.

Implementation

At Canon Popham C of E Primary Academy we encourage children to demonstrate their attitudes and learning behaviours through the Characteristics of Effective Learning. These characteristics 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 their achievements
- Creating and thinking critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop methods and strategies.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which consists of seven areas of learning and development, 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas. These are:

Prime Areas:

- Communication and Language – Listening, Attention & Understanding and Speaking
- Personal Social and Emotional Development – Self-regulation, Managing self and Building Relationships
- Physical Development – Gross Motor Skills and Fine Motor Skills

Specific Areas:

- Literacy – Comprehension, Word Reading and Writing
- Mathematics – Number and Numerical Patterns
- Understanding the World – Past & Present, People, Culture & Communities and The Natural World
- Expressive Arts and Design – Creating with Material and Being Imaginative & Expressive

As a Church of England school our strong Christian Values also underpin our learning within the Foundation Stage and our 6 Key Christian Values are:

- Compassion
- Endurance
- Forgiveness
- Hope
- Justice
- Thankfulness

In our Foundation Stage there is a balance of adult guided activities and opportunities for children to explore and engage with child-initiated play. EYFS plan daily adult led activities which are based on children's areas of need, next steps and children's interests alongside our School's Knowledge and Vocabulary Progression documents. Through our enabling environment we provide a range of stimulating enhancements which children can then use to follow up learning objectives independently. The lessons taught in Foundation follow the school's Teach Simply model ensuring the children are able to Know and Remember more.

At Canon Popham we recognise that reading is a key skill which underpins all other areas of learning and therefore ensure that high quality daily phonics teaching is delivered in both Reception and Nursery classes. We follow the Read Write Inc programme with children taking home reading books that match their phonic ability and encourage parents to read with their child. We also recognise the importance of reading aloud to children in order to develop their love of reading and promote enjoyment. Children need a vast range of vocabulary in order to succeed in life and so this is taught explicitly through Robust Vocabulary Instruction (RVI) as well as through daily story time and Speech and Language interventions including EALIP and NELI.

Alongside daily phonics lessons all Foundation stage children take part in a daily maths session and we follow a Maths Mastery programme. In nursery the children engage in a daily maths meeting which covers a range of key mathematical skills and focuses on using the correct vocabulary. Reception children take part in a four part daily maths lesson as well as a separate maths meeting. They are also encouraged to use correct mathematical language and speak in full sentences.

All members of the EYFS staff are experienced in observing the children's play and moving their learning forward through identifying next steps which are either addressed immediately or planned for in adult led activities or enhanced provision where appropriate. Observations are recorded in each child's learning journey and they are shared with parents through the Tapestry app.

Foundation Stage staff support our children's transition into Key Stage 1 and ensure they are prepared for the next steps in their education.

Impact

Our curriculum design ensures that children's progress, across the EYFS curriculum, is good from their various starting points and that the needs of individual children including SEND and Pupil Premium children can be met through high quality first teaching and targeted interventions when appropriate. All EYFS staff use observations to make formative assessments which inform future planning and ensures that all children build on their current knowledge and skills. We strive for children to reach the Early Learning Goals at the end of Reception and that they are well prepared for KS1. Children leave our Foundation Stage with the knowledge and confidence to continue their educational journey with a love of learning.

