



Sandy Lane Primary School

Early Years Policy and Pedagogy



From the moment children enter Reception at Sandy Lane we are working in partnership with their parents. We recognise and respect the fact that parents are their children's primary educators and realise that working closely with them will have a positive impact on development and learning, this begins during home visits.

Through open and welcoming classrooms and staff who are friendly and approachable we aim to build strong and supportive links with parents that will lead to relationships based on mutual trust and respect; the beginning of a journey that will continue as children move on through school.

We provide safe a secure learning environment together with warm and nurturing relationships enabling children to feel happy and secure with adults they like and trust.

We are aware of the diversity in the ethnic, cultural and social make-up of the children in our setting and recognise that all families are different but of equal importance. We aim to respect and reflect the differing experiences that each child brings with them from home. Recognising that every child is unique, we aim to build on what each child knows and can do in order that they fulfil their potential. We have a wholly inclusive ethos where children of all abilities are supported and nurtured.

Our curriculum is the Early Years Foundation Stage which is a play based curriculum; 'Play is a child's work!' Play is crucial to the development of children. Within our enabling environment children play, learn and develop their understanding of the world around them. Play reflects a child's wide ranging and varied interests. During play children learn at their highest level. Our well planned and richly resourced environment promotes independent free play. Adults model, engage and interact with children, leading to high quality learning opportunities and experiences. Through play children will be challenged and their learning scaffolded and supported, resulting in the development of high order and critical thinking skills.

In the Foundation Stage we are laying the foundations for all future learning and we passionately believe we are tasked with setting children on the path to becoming life long learners with positive dispositions and attitudes to school and learning.

A child's attitude to learning and how they feel about themselves is crucial to their progress and achievement in school. With this in mind the highest priority is given to the Prime Areas of learning and development; Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development. These vital areas underpin all other learning within the specific areas; Literacy, Mathematics, The World, Expressive Arts and Design. Our aim is for children to leave Reception full of self esteem and confidence, independent and curious with a 'can-do' attitude. Our children leave us engaged, motivated and willing to take risks, knowing that making mistakes and problem solving go hand in hand. We recognise the importance of children developing friendships, empathy, and care for others and this will be modelled and taught consistently. We will give our children the support they need so that ultimately they will begin to develop the skills necessary to deal with differences in an appropriate and effective way.

Above all else we want school to be an exciting, fun place where children want to be. Where they feel safe, secure and happy, knowing that their voice will be heard and where they can express themselves freely.

Sandy Lane Reception is a place where children can be themselves, make friends and achieve.