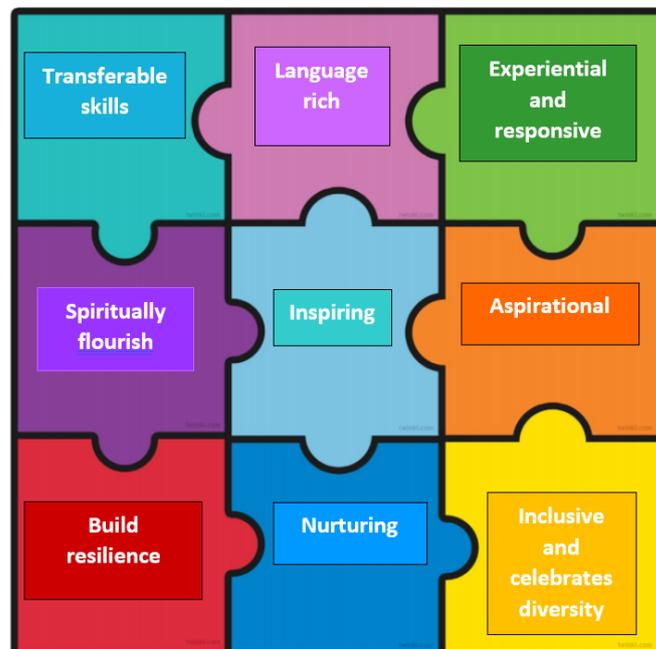


An Overview of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum at St Michael's



The Lord says, 'For I know the plans I have for you plans to give you hope and a future.'
Jeremiah 29 verse 11

At St. Michael's School, the Early Years Foundation Stage is our Reception class. Our curriculum is designed to give our youngest children the very best start to their school life, preparing them for their future education and to give them the enthusiasm to pursue learning for the rest of their lives. Our aim is to work in partnership with parents and carers to encourage independent, happy learners who thrive and flourish in school achieving their full potential from their various starting points. As the foundation of learning, we aim to understand and follow both the children's interests and provide child-led opportunities to support learning, consolidate and deepen knowledge ensuring that children meet their next steps as confident learners. Children are encouraged to be creative, inventive, and resourceful so that they develop a 'can do' mind set regardless of ability or language acquisition. We aim to provide opportunities that prepare children to meet the Early Learning Goals at the end of the Foundation stage and ensure that children make at least good progress.



During learning, there are planned opportunities for children to develop and practice their skills through both child-led and teacher-led activities. We aim to embrace the links between topics and offer opportunities to make real-world applications of their skills through a variety of experiences and opportunities. Children will learn that success comes from hard work, determination, resilience and self-belief that they are capable of anything.

Learning is progressive and delivered through child-centred experiences that is based upon experiences and topics which engage, motivate and interest the children. We take time to get to know children's interest and their likes to support learning.

All areas of the EYFS curriculum are followed and planned for to ensure there is a board, balanced and progressive learning environment, and curriculum. Children learn new skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate understanding through the seven areas in the EYFS curriculum

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design.

These seven areas are used in our progression of learning to ensure that we deliver the acquisition of skills and knowledge in a way that shows clear progression and support the transition into Key Stage One. Planning is designed to be flexible to reflect the needs of the cohort and individual children.

Daily guided activities are planned that cover different areas of the EYFS and allow children to develop their next steps in learning. There is a range of stimulating and engaging activities which can be accessed independently or as part of child-initiated play. Through careful planning and guiding children's activities we ensure that the next steps are met as we reflect the different ways children learn e.g. The Characteristics of Effective Learning.

Playing and exploring – children investigate and experience things 'have a go'

Active learning – children concentrate and keep trying if they encounter difficulties

Creative and thinking critically – children develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outdoors. Outdoor areas are used throughout the year irrespective of the weather.

We endeavour to ensure that our children reach their Early Learning Goals by the end of the year.

We measure the impact of curriculum through assessment for learning opportunities, pupil voice, data analysis and learning observations with focus on specific criteria. Through these forms of continuous and robust assessment, individuals are identified and nurtured to ensure personal ambitions are fostered and encouraged. Pupils' enthusiasm about their learning is used to enhance their own learning and spiritual life of the school (like when they are leading class worship). As a result, we aim for pupils to be confident, articulate and enthusiastic about their learning, and keen to share their knowledge.

Pupils' good behaviour is a result of their positive engagement in the curriculum on offer. Pupils attain well, make outstanding progress from their starting points. They aspire to be the best they can be. We know we have succeeded when pupils leave the EYFS fully prepared for the next stage of their learning journey.