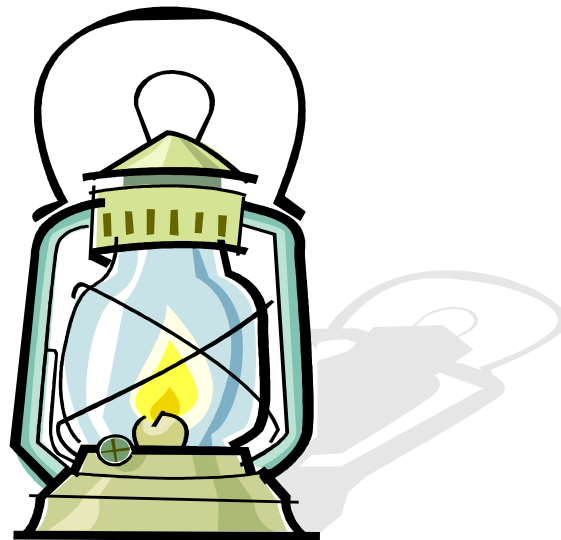




EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE POLICY



“Shine like a Lantern in the presence of the Lord”

Approved by:

Head Teacher

Date: 04 – 09 – 2023

Signed

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1. OUR VISION

At St Bede's we aim to provide our children with the support that will enable them to fulfil their potential and become independent learners. We understand that each child is unique and will develop at an individual rate. Our priority is that our EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) provision offers a high level of engagement, exploration, challenging and active learning, through a range of differentiated activities and child-initiated play. The EYFS team strive to meet every child's entitlement to develop a love for learning and enabling them to have the best possible future for life chances.

2. AIM AND OBJECTIVES

We aim to support and provide a positive and enabling environment with a well-balanced curriculum. For this to happen the EYFS team will:

- Lay secure foundations for future learning and development by providing a happy, caring, safe, inclusive, stimulating and challenging learning environment.
- Provide the children with experiences that develops their social and emotional well-being along with teaching a child to take responsibility and care, for others and for the environment.
- Place emphasis on enabling decision-making, fostering independence and self-confidence.
- Provide a curriculum that is stimulating and broadens their curiosity for learning. With an emphasis on the children's own interests.

3. KEY REQUIREMENTS

We use the following key documents to underpin our practice and guidance in the Early Years

- Early Adopters (DfE, 2021)
- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile handbook (DfE, 2016),
- Development Matters (Early Education, 2020) and
- Early Outcomes (2013)

4. CURRICULUM

At St Bede's we follow the curriculum as outlined in the Early Adopters (2021) document alongside Development Matters (2020). The child's learning will follow the curriculum requirements in both the indoor and outdoor learning environment. The EYFS framework includes seven areas of learning and development. They consist of three prime areas these are:

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

Along with the four specific areas which are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the world
- Expressive arts and design

All areas of learning and development are important and are taught through a variety of curriculum-based activities. We believe it is essential to have a balance between adult and child-led learning. Child led learning allows the child the opportunity to take ownership of their learning by applying it to different situations. Adult led activities are carefully planned to ensure

the children learn specific skills and knowledge. These activities are led daily as part of our scheduled timetable.

5. LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

Learning through play and practical hands on experiences outlines our approach to teaching and learning in the Early Years. Through a child's play, they will develop and learn many skills such as communication, listening to one to one another, sharing and taking turns. All skills that they learn will enable them to develop the skills needed throughout their life. We pride ourselves on all children's learning being experienced through outdoor and indoor activities.

6. PLANNING

The early years' team plan weekly to provide engaging and accessible lessons to incorporate all areas of learning. The plans will include a topic that will be delivered over a period. Of particular importance are 'hook' activities, which are linked to the topic. They are planned to capture a child's imagination and interest, these allow the children to develop many skills particularly in their writing and independent play.

Teachers will plan for short carpet sessions, which are either maths or phonics based sessions. These activities will be mainly hands-on experiences, as this will allow the children to take ownership of their learning. Children also learn best from activities that they have independently initiated or when working alongside their peers. The children enjoy sharing and talking about their own experiences with their peers.

A strong emphasis is placed on storytelling and sharing good quality literature with the children. Teachers identify on the Topic overview examples of fiction and non-fiction books that will be shared with the children. Regular story time is a key feature on the timetable for each class. Sharing stories also provides opportunities for discussions about social and emotional issues, such as friendships, sharing and taking responsibility for their own actions. Through stories, children are able to learn an array of vocabulary and how to continue a rhyming string.

The daily timetable provides time for the children to engage in play-based learning, using carefully planned activities and resources that are set out by the adults. The classrooms have many resources that the children can access freely during choosing time. During a child's play, it is not for the adult to interfere, take over or judge. Adults have a key role during this time by showing genuine interest, offering encouragement and suggestions, building conversation; modeling different skills, clarifying ideas and asking open-ended questions.

Throughout the day, children will have access to an area where they can engage with physical activities for example; ride bikes, learning to balance, catch and throw a ball. They will have one main PE lesson per week. Your child will be required to come into school in the PE kit on the day they have PE.

The children have access to IT equipment (inter-active whiteboards and other mechanical toys). They are encouraged to learn to log in to the system independently enabling them to access many curricula based games.

7. THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The indoor environment is organised into different learning areas: writing area; math's area; reading area; creative area; sand and water area; role-play and construction. The same areas can be seen in the outdoor area where children are able to access them throughout the day. In the outside area the children can access the mud kitchen and a digging area. Here they can use their imagination while exploring using different household and gardening tools. The children can engage with the physical area where they can make obstacle courses using different pieces of apparatus. Both inside and outside areas have equal importance to a child's learning and development. Through a child's play, they will continue to develop their literacy and mathematical skills. This will enable them to use these skills through everyday life experiences.

8. ASSESSMENT

Assessment is an essential and important part for children's learning and development. Assessments are done through a variety of methods this enables the practitioners to gain an understanding of each child's level of attainment. This year the Government are requesting that all Reception children take part in a baseline assessment. The mosaic approach (Clark, A, 2012) is a method which is used daily and consists of short observations using the 2build a profile program. The program allows the practitioner to take photos and make notes of what the child is saying. 2build a profile allows the practitioner to make judgements for a child's next step to their learning whilst following the seventeen strands linked to the seven areas of learning.

Children who join the Nursery will also be assessed but this is not a Government recommended assessment. In Reception, the children will also take part in a phonics assessment. Assessments allow the practitioner to view a child's progression and during parents evening will be able to share with the parent the child's targets for the next term. Ongoing assessments, allow the practitioner to form the basis for the end of year report for parents. It also allows the practitioner to decide if early interventions will be needed to support the child/children.

9. HOMEWORK

During the first half term, each child will receive a reading book. Parents are expected to share and read the book with their child five times or more a week. Once the parent has read with the child, they will sign and date the reading record book. Children in Reception will be required to complete the weekly homework which begins when they start to learn phonics. Weekly homework is available via Fronter (Reception) and will include information about resources etc. From the Spring Term, your child will be asked to complete a topic project (picture/model and/or some writing) and will be given a weekly set of words to learn.

10. PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS AND CARERS

The school understands the importance of building strong relationships between the staff and the parents. Parents play a key role in a child's development so by having a strong relationship between the school and parent will enable the child to develop and reach their full potential.

- Reception parents are invited to attend workshops which are designed to help the parents to support their child's development at home. These will be via Google classrooms.
- Parents will receive a weekly Nursery/Reception newsletter along with a Headteacher letter. The newsletter will inform the parents about events and dates to remember and an insight to what the children have participated in that week.
- Families will receive a login to use. The login will enable them to access 'Fronter', which is allocated on the school's website.
- Reception and Nursery staff will share weekly photos of the children (who have given such permission) on 'Fronter' which can be accessed by using the login details.
- Reception parents who wish to make an appointment to meet with the practitioners may do so via the office.
- Parents will be invited to attend parents evening, once in the autumn term and then again in the spring term.

11. TRANSITION

At St Bede's we aim to make a child's transition into the setting a calm, safe and happy experience.

- New Nursery parents will have an opportunity to talk to the Nursery staff. This will be via a 'Teams' virtual meeting. You will be sent a link and a time when you can access the meeting.

- Reception children who did not attend the school's nursery will also have the opportunity to talk to a teacher. This will be via a 'Teams' virtual meeting. You will be sent a link and a time when you can access the meeting.
- Reception children who did not attend the school's nursery will be invited to join the staff in a taster session in September. This will enable the parents to meet the staff and ask any questions that may arise. We will confirm details once arrangements have been confirmed.

Parents of all children entering Reception and Nursery in the next academic year will be invited to attend an Induction meeting in the summer term. This will be via a 'Teams' virtual meeting. You will be sent a link and a time when you can access the meeting. Parents will meet their child's teachers and support staff. This meeting enables the staff to discuss how both reception and nursery run also the expectations of the school.

- Introduction from the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher
- School uniform and PE kit
- Introduction to the school SENCO
- Information regarding school dinners and the booking system that is used for pupils Reception to Year 6 is available on the school website
- Confirmation of the arrangements for starting school in September
- Further information about the school and Government expectations at the end of the child's year in both nursery and reception.

Reception teachers will also contact settings that new children (Non-nursery based) have attended and will arrange a visit to observe the child if appropriate. Teachers will also liaise with pre-school practitioners to gain any further information, which may be of some support.

The children will begin Reception in September on a staggered basis. Information is provided on the school website.

12. SAFE GUARDING AND WELFARE

The welfare of the child is the school's main priority. We believe that children learn best when they are happy, safe and feel secure.

- At St Bede's we provide an environment where the children can develop and build positive relationships with both adults and peers
- All staff take part in an annual safeguarding course and are aware of the procedures to follow if any concerns arise and aware of the safeguarding processes

Please see the school website for the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

13. REWARD SYSTEM

The school has in place a reward system, this helps to promote positive behaviour around the school. Procedures that are adhered to support positive behaviour are:

- Traffic light system – all children will start the day on green. If a child is unable to follow the class rules, the teacher will explain this to them that if they continue, they will be asked to move to amber. If the child continues, they are asked to remove their name from green and place it on to amber. A child will be asked to move their name to red if they continue to be disruptive. If a child finds their name being placed on red, they will miss some of their play at lunchtime and spend time with the EYFS phase leader. The parents will also receive a letter explaining the reason behind the decision for the child to miss their play. The aim of the traffic light system is for the children to remain on green all day. Children who demonstrate excellent behaviour will be placed on Freddy Frog and at the end of the day will be rewarded with a sticker. If a child has been on Freddy frog three times that week, they will receive a special Freddy frog sticker.

- Children will be verbally praised for their work, behaviour and for showing good manners.
- Children will work towards gaining ten lanterns, which result in them receiving a certificate.
- Both nursery and reception reward the children with Lantern of the week. The children will receive a certificate explaining why they are lantern of the week.
- In the Summer Term, some Reception children will receive a certificate and pencil for being writer or mathematician of the week.
- Reception children will start to receive green cards during the summer term. The children are given a card for heavenly handwriting, fantastic reading or something special. If a child gains three cards, they will then be rewarded with the Head teacher's award.

Our aim in the early years is to guide children by teaching them the school rules along with the classroom rules. These rules are displayed around the classroom and are explained to the children on a weekly basis. The aim is to promote positive behaviour and foster good relationships and safety. You can find the schools Behaviour and Discipline policy either on the school's website or via the school office.

14. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As a Roman Catholic School, St Bede's has a specific policy and guidelines for the teaching of Religious Education. The framework for the lessons is set out in the "Come and See" Religious Education Programme. The Early Years Foundation Stage teachers plan their work together and follow the whole school plan. The programme links with the Curriculum Directory. The children pray with their teacher four times a day. They also have a weekly Early Years Foundation Stage assembly in the Nursery where they can build a better religious understanding and learn about their community in a more intimate way. The nursery children perform in a nativity play. Reception children perform a Christmas assembly at the end of the autumn term. Each reception class performs one class assembly on the "Come and See" theme before the end of the school year. They visit St Bede's Church priest once a term, where they will discuss stories from the bible and talk about the 'Come and See' topic. All children become familiar with prayers and hymns and are expected to show respect during prayer time and at Mass. Children learn about some Saints' Days and Feast Days. They begin to understand the importance of playing an active part in their Catholic community.

In reception, children are introduced to the Jigsaw scheme which encourages knowledge of the world around them.

15. OTHER FAITHS/MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

Festivals, beliefs and customs relevant to other faiths and nationalities are taught throughout the academic year. Resources in school such as books, posters and artefacts related to these events are shared as appropriate amongst the EYFS classes.