



## Early Years Foundation Stage



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the curriculum that the Government sets for all early years providers (0-5 years) to make sure that 'all children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe'. (Department for Education) There are 17 early learning goals to be aimed for by the end of the Reception year in school.

At St Mary's we follow the EYFS Framework. We use the document for essential advice and guidance to evaluate the practice and quality in our setting to ensure every child makes age appropriate progress. We will work with you to carefully document the progress of your child through their home and school experiences.

Overarching Principles The EYFS principles guide the work of all practitioners and are grouped into four distinct but complementary themes;  
These are:

- Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured;
- Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships;
  - Children learn and develop well in enabling environments;
- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

## Characteristics of Effective Learning

In planning and guiding children's activities, we reflect on the different ways the children learn and we ensure that our practice reflects the three characteristics of effective learning

**Playing and exploring** - Finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and being willing to 'have a go'.

**Active Learning** - Being involved and concentrating, persevering and enjoying achieving, what they set out to do.

**Creating and thinking critically** - Having and developing their own ideas, making links and choosing ways to do things.

### The Seven Areas of Learning

The EYFS promotes effective practice through each of the seven areas of learning to support children through various stages of maturity and development. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. Each of the seven areas of learning are seen by our practitioners as being equally important with each area being connected to each other and underpinned by all of the principles in the EYFS

### Prime Areas

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development** - making relationships and getting along with other children and adults, having confidence and self-awareness, and being able to manage their feelings and behaviour.

**Communication and language** - developing good listening and attention skills, to have good understanding and also speak and express themselves clearly.

**Physical Development** - large and small movements in a variety of ways, having good control and co-ordination, handling different tools and equipment well. It also covers health and self-care, looking at ways to keep healthy and safe.

### Specific Areas

**Literacy** - stories, rhymes, books and reading, and also mark making/writing.

**Mathematics** - numbers, counting, shape, space and measure.

**Understanding the World** - people and communities and helps children understand about the world they live in, including ICT.

**Expressive Arts and Design** -developing different forms of expression, exploring music, dance and song, encouraging children to be creative in all respects. It also focuses on media and materials and imaginative/pretend play.

### Early Years Foundation Stage Planning

The staff plan to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum that encompasses all aspects of the Development Matters document across the year, based on the observations of children's play and what their interests are. This appears in the weekly enhancements to the continuous provision, as well as in the adult-led focuses and group-time work. There are also opportunities to explore a variety of topics of work, including those suggested by the children.

### Reception Topics 21-22

Autumn	Spring	Summer
<p><b>Homes</b> – Children will encounter the magic and mystery, structure and construction of different types of homes</p> <p><b>Winter wonderland</b> – Looking at the changing weather towards Christmas. Children will also investigate cold places.</p>	<p><b>Earth &amp; Beyond</b> – Looking at planet Earth and Space. Children will set off for an adventure amongst the stars!</p> <p><b>Changing and Growing</b> – Children will learn about their local environment and changes that they can see happening over time.</p>	<p><b>Under the sea</b> – Children will sail the seven seas, joining the inhabitants of the ocean</p> <p><b>Real life superheroes</b> – Children will dive into the lives and occupations of others</p>
<p><b>Early Years Foundation Stage Assessment</b></p>		
<p>During their time with us, observations are made on your child using Tapestry. Our observations help us to understand your child's level of achievement, interests and learning styles, and to shape learning experiences that reflect our observations. These are collated by your child's teacher and your child's progress will be discussed regularly with you. As a parent or carer you will be able to use Tapestry to access your child's online learning journal and snapshot observations. At the end of the year your child will be assessed using the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. For each area of learning your child will be assessed as 'emerging' 'expected'. Throughout the year we will update you on your child's progress, whether this be formally, such as at a parents evening, or more informally, catch ups at the end of the day.</p>		

