



EYFS CURRICULUM

Our vision is to provide the best possible early education for all children in our school to fulfil their potential as the world's great explorers.

At Wildmoor Heath we want our young learners to enjoy coming to school to feel happy and confident, excited and eager to learn!

The Early Years Foundation Stage is the exciting beginning of a child's journey, where they secure solid foundations for the future. We aim to establish secure roots in the early years which we build upon in subsequent years. It is our aim that our learners develop verbally, physically, emotionally and cognitively whilst acquiring a positive and life-long attitude towards learning. Personal development is at the core of all our teaching and learning and we aim to ensure that all our young learners begin to develop their own strong cultural capital of knowledge and experiences.

At Wildmoor Heath School we recognise that each young learner is unique, and we work hard to meet their individual needs, providing a flexible and fully inclusive curriculum that takes into consideration their different starting points. The children's transition into school is hugely important to us; we dedicate time and energy in the months before the new academic year to get to know each child and their family so that they settle quickly, feel happy, safe and secure. Building upon our knowledge of each learner, their motivations and interests, we offer learning opportunities which will enable each one to progress rapidly and securely. It is equally important to us that all our learners have a smooth transition into Key Stage 1, being fully prepared.

Wherever possible, we strive to spiral knowledge and skills through subject teaching and across the curriculum. In this way, pupils learn more deeply by revisiting concepts, widening their understanding and having multiple opportunities to apply their skills.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EYFS CURRICULUM

In our Reception class we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum which covers seven areas of learning.

The Prime Areas are defined as:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
2. Communication and Language
3. Physical Development

The Specific Areas are defined as:

1. Literacy
2. Mathematics
3. Understanding of the World
4. Expressive Arts and Design

The areas of learning are taught in practical, playful ways with support and challenge from the adults in the classroom. We use a combination of 'adult directed' teaching sessions either as a class or in small groups, and 'child-initiated learning' where the children lead their own learning and adults follow their lead to teach through the children's interests. During child-initiated time, the children 'free-flow' between the indoor and outdoor environment.

The 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' are key to our Early Years curriculum. We aim to develop these key characteristics, 'Playing and Learning', 'Active Learning' and 'Thinking Critically', in order to give the children, the essential skills that they will continue to draw upon throughout their development.

The school has developed 5 bespoke curriculum drivers that we have chosen to match the learning needs of our learners at Wildmoor Heath:

Community

Environment

Wellbeing

Creativity

Communication

Opportunities

We use these drivers to plan opportunities for the children through the learning themes.

Our vast classroom comprises many learning areas and a kitchen for weekly cookery sessions. We benefit from a large woodland outdoor area which completes our enviable learning environment. We refresh the environments regularly to meet the different and developing needs of our children. We aim to create a stimulating and exciting learning environment that acts to support and challenge the learners, promoting their independence. During child-initiated time, children are free to play and learn inside and outside.

In order to develop a love of learning, we plan cross-curricular themes which make the learning purposeful. Through our positive relationships and the observations that we make of the children, we plan these learning themes based upon the themes that excite, engage and motivate the children in their learning. Reading and listening to stories is at the heart of our curriculum, we link each learning theme to a book that we listen to, read and explore in detail. We also plan learning themes based upon seasonal changes and celebrations enhancing the children's knowledge and understanding of the world.

Positive relationships are key to the delivery of our curriculum. As well as the children, we value the important role parents are as educators. We aim to involve parents as much as possible in their child's education. Parents receive weekly update, parental workshops, are invited into the classroom and add to their child's learning journal using Tapestry, an online assessment tool where observations are shared and added to by both the staff and parents.

Learning to read is an exciting part of the Reception class and we begin this essential journey from Day 1 with robust Phonics teaching sessions, which are then translated into the learning table activities. At Wildmoor Heath we use the motivating Read Write Inc. scheme to teach phonics and an interactive reading scheme called Bug Club to develop early reading skills. We promote reading in many ways, including the sharing of famous fables, stories and tales on a daily basis. It is our aim that Reception learners will know at least ten stories well by the end of their first year at our school.

Wellbeing is one of our curriculum drivers and we do all that we can to promote a healthy lifestyle in reception. We have a 'rolling' snack area in the classroom where children can have fruit, bread sticks, milk and water. We regularly talk to the children about the importance of eating healthy and have healthy eating themed week to develop this further. Children take part in P.E once a week and have 'free-flow' access to the large outdoor area for most of the day. The learners also have weekly Forest Skills sessions in our separate outdoor learning area, complete with pond and indoor classroom as well as daily use of our school 'sensory garden'. Sponsored walks, family Night Walks and other family events are an important part of life at Wildmoor Heath.

IMPACT OF THE EYFS CURRICULUM

Within our EYFS curriculum, children are assessed continuously by observing what they are doing. These observations provide us with next steps which we act upon rapidly to inform future planning. Our daily observations ensure learning is embedded and consistent, and that all learners continue to make good progress in our setting.

Our Early Years Curriculum ensures that children finish the reception year enthused and ready to be challenged further.

Our Curriculum Drivers

Children leave the reception class having had experiences in all 6 of our curriculum drivers.

Personal, emotional and social development.

Children become happy and confident at school. They are able to use the environment independently, displaying the characteristic of effective learning. Children have a positive disposition to learning and are therefore ready to access the key stage 1 curriculum.

Communication and Language Development

Children become excellent communicators, confident to stand in front of the class and share their ideas. They can recite songs and poems and have an ever-growing vocabulary. Children will be ready to access speaking and listening, and literacy in the key stage 1 curriculum.

Physical development

Children make the most of all physical development opportunities and are able to use equipment such as bikes, scooters, balancing beams, bats, balls, climbing frames, scissors, tweezers, needles for sewing, paintbrushes and pencils. Confidence in physical development has a direct impact on children's literacy skills, as well as wellbeing.

Literacy

Children love stories and enjoy borrowing books from the school library. They develop strong phonics skills. Using Read Write Inc. children become secure in phonics up to set 2. Children enjoy writing for a range of purposes, including simple stories.

Maths

Children develop strong early mathematic skills are familiar in using resources and models such as Numicon, ten frames and part-part-whole model.

Understanding of the world

Children become curious and interested in the world around them and can ask questions about what they see and hear. They enjoy regular visits to the Heath. They learn about people from the past. This becomes the foundations for learning in areas such as Science, History and Geography.

Expressive arts and design

Children use the open-ended resources creatively and imaginatively to explore their own ideas and to problem solve. They study art from different artists.

Foundation Stage Profile

At the end of the reception year children are assessed against the early learning goals. This information forms the foundation stage profile which is a summary of each child's attainment. It is used to inform parents and year one teachers of each child's development, to help ensure a smooth transition into Year 1 and plan the curriculum.
