

Early Years Foundation Stage

Here at St Andrews we believe that every child should be happy, valued and confident. We provide a supportive and safe environment in which every child can flourish and develop at their own pace and in their own individual way. This is achieved through a combination of carefully structured continuous provision and planned learning activities. Our role is to stimulate and encourage their development and enjoyment of learning through a variety of activities indoors and outdoors. We encourage the growth of social skills and empathy amongst the children. The relationships which the children develop with each other and with our staff are central to their happiness and lay the best possible foundation for their future.

A Happy Start

We believe that a smooth transition into school is vital to ensure that children are happy to attend and are able to build on their previous experiences of learning from their very first day in Reception. We achieve this through:

Home Visits Each year we like to visit our new children in their home setting. In our experience this is a valuable part of the transition into school, allowing us to meet the family and learn about each child in the place where they feel most happy and confident.

Story times and Come and Play Session All children will have the opportunity to attend three sessions. Here they will meet the teachers, make new friends and begin to explore their future classroom.

The First Few Weeks in School

The children have a phased entry over a week, this is determined by age with the youngest children first. From then on they attend full time. We do take a flexible approach according to children's needs.

Curriculum

We follow the Government's statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, which:

- Sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well
- Ensures children are kept healthy and safe
- Ensures that children have the knowledge and skills they need to start school

Our curriculum is split into 3 prime areas and then a further 4 specific areas. These prime areas are those most essential for every child's healthy development and future learning.

1) Personal, social and emotional development

2) Physical Development

3) Communication and language

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:

- 1) Literacy (reading and writing)
- 2) Mathematics (numbers, shape, space and measures)
- 3) Understanding of the world
- 4) Expressive arts and design