



Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and Nursery

“Let your light shine”

Make your light shine, so others will see the good you do and will praise your Father in heaven. Matt 5 v 16

Early Years Curriculum Statement

Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and Nursery believe every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to fulfil their full potential. A child's experience in the early years has a major impact on their future life chances.

We greatly value the importance of the Early Years Foundation Stage and believes a secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right as it provides the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

Learning and Development:

Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and Nursery follow the curriculum as outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework 2025. In planning and guiding what children learn, practitioners reflect on the different rates at which children are developing and adjust their practice appropriately.

In organising and implementing the curriculum our school ensure that there is a broad range of activities and experiences, which include the three Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning.

Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- Playing and Exploring: Children investigate and experience things, and “have a go”.

Effective teachers provide an environment that supports children's curiosity and exploration, allowing them to learn through discovery and experimentation.

- Active Learning: Children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements.

Effective teachers reflect on the different rates at which children are developing and adjust their practice to support each child's unique learning journey.

- Creating and Thinking Critically: Children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

Effective teachers encourage children to think creatively, make connections, and develop problem-solving skills.

These characteristics are essential in the Early Years, as they enable children to develop a strong foundation for future learning and help them become confident, curious, and independent learners. By incorporating these characteristics into daily learning, teachers create an environment that fosters a love of learning and supports children's unique learning styles and abilities.

Intent

At Waterhouses CE Primary Academy and Nursery we will nurture and enrich each individual child, enabling them to access a play-based curriculum. Through rich experiential learning children will gain knowledge and vocabulary which will help them to develop a deeper understanding of the world they live in.

The EYFS provides a secure foundation for future learning and development and through our school vision:

‘Make your light shine, so others will see the good you do and will praise your Father in heaven’. Matthew 5:16 and the core Christian Values: Love, Trust, Hope and Respect support our children to develop a love of learning, show kindness and shine in everything they do.

We work closely and collaboratively with parents, building positive relationships understanding the importance that home experiences have on children’s development now and in the future.

Implementation

Alongside our school’s Vision and Values, which are the foundation of everything we do at Waterhouses, children in Reception and Nursery follow the Early Years Foundation Statutory Framework.

The framework specifies the requirements for learning and development.

This covers the 7 area of learning, which are:

The Prime areas:

Communication and Language,

Physical development,

Personal and social development,

The Specific areas:

Literacy,

Maths,

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design.

In Early Years we recognise that children learn best when they feel happy, safe and secure. We provide high quality teaching across all areas of the curriculum both inside and outdoors. During the school day children take part in whole class learning with a qualified teacher or a TA (who is trained in early education). Adults lead these sessions

which provide learning that is age appropriate. Children also take part in small group learning which is led by a teacher / TA. These adult led sessions support all children to consolidate or extend learning.

We encourage children to learn through play and exploration (continuous provision activities) where children access learning of their choice which allows them to learn within a carefully planned balance of adult-led and child-initiated learning opportunities. The staff work hard to develop positive relationships with the children and take time to learn about the children's interests and likes to support their learning.

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum and our aim is to develop a love of reading right from the start. Children are exposed to a range of quality books that not only develop a love of reading, but have been chosen specifically to develop their oracy, vocabulary and comprehension which together enable individuals to communicate effectively, engage with others, and express themselves confidently and accurately.

Books are used for termly learning across the EYFS, in adult led activities and during daily story sessions. Children regularly take-home books to share with parents.

We teach high quality phonics using 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' which begins in Nursery with pre-phonics activities, language development and nursery rhymes followed by a systematic approach to teaching reading which is in place to support all children in learning to read.

Early intervention is a prominent feature of our teaching and learning practice and appropriate interventions are put into place to enable children to make progress towards the national expectations at the end of the reception year.

We have close links with local nurseries which support a smooth and settled transition into school and strong parental partnerships which empower parents to support their child's learning at home.

Impact

We want our children to be happy, kind and confident and through daily learning opportunities widen their knowledge and understanding of the world around them, setting ambitious expectations for all children. Our curriculum celebrates diversity and supports the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through the school's vision: *'Let your light shine!'*

And the Core Christian Values: *Love, Trust, Hope, Respect*

Children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. Teaching and learning in the Early Years has a positive impact on the pupils supporting them to become happy and resilient learners who are ready for the next stage of their education. Children are given a broad range of vocabulary, knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

