



Early Years Policy

"Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up"

(Statutory Framework for Early Years 2017)

At Longridge Church of England Primary School we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage. This is based on four main principles which shapes the practice in our Early Years Setting. These are

- A Unique Child
- Positive Relationships
- Enabling Environments
- Learning and Development

Well-planned play, both indoors and outdoors, is a key way in which young children learn with enjoyment and challenge. Through play, in a secure environment with effective adult support, children can:

- Explore, develop and represent learning experiences that help them to make sense of the world.
- Practise and build up ideas, concepts and skills.
- Learn how to control impulses and understand the need for rules.
- Be alone, be alongside others or cooperate as they talk or rehearse their feelings.
- Take risks and make mistakes.
- Think Imaginatively.
- Communicate with others as they investigate or solve problems.
- Express fears or relive anxious experiences in a safe controlled environment.



At Longridge C.E. we plan carefully from the children's interests and as a result our topics and themes are constantly changing.

Areas of Learning and Early Years Goals

The foundation stage is organised into seven areas of learning, 3 prime areas

- Personal, social and emotional development.
- Communication and language
- Physical Development

And a further 4 specific areas

- Mathematics.
- Understanding the world.
- Literacy
- Expressive arts and designs.

Each of these areas have their own set of Early Learning Goals (ELGs) which set the expectations for children to achieve by the end of the reception year.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This area of learning is about emotional well-being, knowing who you are and where you fit in and feeling good about yourself. It is also about developing respect for others, social competence and a positive disposition to learn. In school, this aspect underpins all we do and it is nurtured through every aspect of our daily lives in the Reception class. It also concentrates on making relationships and the skills we need to be able to do this.

Communication and Language

Communication and language depends on learning and being competent in several key skills, together with having the confidence, opportunity, encouragement, support and disposition to use them. This area of learning includes speaking and listening in different situations and for different purposes, listening and attention and developing good skills in understanding.



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Physical Development

In the foundation stage, this is about improving skills of co-ordination control, manipulation and movement. It also helps children gain confidence in what they can do through health and self-care such as being healthy and active. Examples of activities are; funky finger activities to develop fine-motor skills, weaving, sewing and modelling; gross-motor skills through air-writing with sticks and ribbons, and a dedicated planned physical education sessions weekly to develop skills in games, gymnastics and dance.

Literacy

This area of learning develops the key skills required to read and write. The children will take part in daily phonics, which will teach them the phonemes they need to be able to read and spell words. Opportunities for reading will be all around and incorporated into many aspects of their play along with weekly visits to our school library where they can choose their own storybook to loan for a week at a time. There is also a designated reading corner within the classroom for the children to further enjoy books. A writing area is always available with a wide variety of writing opportunities available for the children to choose and complete. Writing can also be seen through well planned activities in many areas in the classroom.

Mathematics

This depends on becoming confident and competent in learning and using key skills. This area of learning includes counting, sorting, matching, seeking patterns, making connections, recognising relationships and working with numbers, shapes and measures. Mathematical understanding will be developed through stories, songs, games and imaginative play. A designated maths area within the classroom allows the children further opportunities to engage independently in problem solving challenges.

Understanding the World

In this area of learning, children develop the crucial knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of the world. This forms the foundation for later work in science, design and technology, history, geography and information and communication technology (ICT)

“Living, learning and sharing in a loving Christian family”



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Our work includes, Celebrations around the World, Antarctica, Fruit and Vegetables, exploring Mini-beasts and undertaking practical experiments to name a few. We aim to use the environment, both 'built' and 'green' around the school and town as much as possible, with planned, supported walks.

Expressive Arts & Design

Creativity is fundamental to successful learning. This involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.

Religious Education

As a church school, we learn about the Christian faith through a variety of ways, using a multi-sensory approach. We celebrate festivals through drama, food tasting, dressing up and performing assemblies. Activities include dramatizing the Christmas Story in church, finding out about 'Life in the time of Jesus' and acting out the Palm Sunday story.

Running throughout the prime and specific areas are the characteristics of learning which underpin the children's learning and development and supports them to remain effective and motivated learners. These are

- Playing and exploring - which looks at how the children engage in the different areas of learning
- Active learning - which looks at the children's motivation
- Creating and thinking critically - which considers how the child thinks

We use all this information to inform our observations and assessments of the children, which then feeds into the planning. Teaching and learning in reception is approached through well planned play experiences, both for the indoor and outdoor classroom. They will learn through very practical, hands on activities which are fun and enjoyable but have clear learning objectives.

“Living, learning and sharing in a loving Christian family”