



At Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Academy, we aim to provide your child with a broad, balanced, inspiring and creative curriculum. We endeavour to plan enriching and challenging opportunities to help your child learn the essential skills needed for further learning and development in Key Stage 1 and beyond.

In Reception your entire child's learning and development is underpinned by the areas of learning in the document 'Development Matters'.

Learning and Development

Learning and development is categorised into three prime areas of learning:

- **Communication and language**

Children will be encouraged to listen and respond appropriately in a range of situations. They will learn to follow instructions and answer questions about their experiences. Children will be taught how to express themselves effectively, showing an awareness of the listener.

- **Physical development**

Children will develop good control and coordination in large and small movements. They will learn to move confidently in a variety of ways. They will learn to handle tools and equipment effectively, including forming letters correctly. Children will learn about the importance of physical exercise and healthy eating.

- **Personal, social and emotional development**

Children will learn to play cooperatively and take turns, forming positive relationships with adults and other children. The children will choose activities and resources and develop confidence to try new things, they will be able to describe themselves in positive terms and talk about abilities. They will understand and follow the classroom and school rules and learn how to solve conflicts independently.

Additionally there are four specific areas of learning:

- **Literacy**

The children will continue to follow the Read, Write, Inc. scheme, learning the letter sounds, including set 2 sounds and how to blend them together to read simple words and then sentences. Children are working in differentiated groups ensuring working on a range of Literacy skills including writing, CVC words, a simple sentence or extending their sentences through composition sessions.

- **Mathematics**

The children will learn to count reliably with numbers from 1-20, place them in order and find 1 more and 1 less. Developing into taking one more and one less away from group of objects. This will provide them with a strong foundation ready to add and take away with numbers up to 10. Children will learn to name and describe 3D shapes, estimate an amount of objects and check by counting them, sequence familiar events and measure a selection of objects.

- **Understanding the world**

Children will be learning about the different seasons and looking specifically at Spring and the changes from Winter. Children will have the opportunity to go on a Spring walk to explore their local environment and identify these signs

Children will be learning about the life cycle of a caterpillar, sequencing the different stages and talk confidently about what happens as it changes.

Children will continue to use and explore a range of technology at school and at home. They will complete simple programmes on the computer.

- **Expressive arts and design**

Children will use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. They will have the opportunity to work with a professional artist thinking about texture, patterns and tools to create a clay plaque. This will be combined to create a collage that will be placed in the Reception outdoor area.

Children will sing songs and make music following the schools new music scheme 'Charanga'. They will explore a variety of musical instruments and learn how to follow the 'pulse' of a song. Children will also engage in imaginative role-play based on their own first-hand experiences and stories.

Achievement of these prime and specific areas of learning is by:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

Seasonal Curriculum Plan

Autumn Term

Elmer, Autumn, Harvest, Healthy eating, Diwali, Bonfire Night, Winter.

**Religious Education*

Creation, People who care for us, Advent, Christmas

Spring Term

Winter, Chinese New Year, Mother's day, Animals and Habitats

**Religious Education*

Baptism, People who help us, Lent, Holy Week

Summer Term

Spring, Summer, life cycles, Father's Day, mini beasts, where we come from, Transition

**Religious Education*

Easter, Pentecost, Prayer

Children's Interest

In Early Years we believe in engaging the children through topics that interest them. Therefore alongside the seasonal topics we include topics that will interest your child. These will vary year on year depending on the interests of the cohort.