



Curriculum Overview

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 Nursery and 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. 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 talk about how they and others show feelings. They will understand and follow the classroom rules.

Additionally there are four specific areas of learning:

· Literacy

The children will learn the letter sound and blend the sounds together to read simple words and sentences. They will show an understanding of what they have read. They will learn to write simple words using their knowledge of letter sounds and write sentences. The children will follow the Read, Write Inc scheme.

· Mathematics

The children will learn to count reliably with numbers from 1-20, place them in order and find 1 more and 1 less. They will learn to add and take away with numbers up to 10 and solve simple problems.

Children will use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money. They will recognise, describe and create patterns. They will learn to name and describe shapes.

· Understanding the world

Children will talk about past and present in their own lives and in the lives of family members. They will look at how they have changed since they were a baby.

Children will find out about similarities and differences in relation to objects, materials and living things, through topics including 'Knowing Me Knowing You.' They will make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur.

Children will talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another.

Children will learn that a range of technology is used in places such as homes and schools. 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.

Children will sing songs and make music including a Christmas concert. They will explore a variety of musical instruments.

Achievement of these prime and specific areas of learning is by following the Characteristics of Effective Learning:

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

Seasonal Curriculum Plan

Autumn Term

All about me, Birthdays, My new school/ Nursery, People who help us, Harvest, Healthy eating, Autumn, Diwali, Bonfire Night, Remembrance and Poppies, Winter.

NURSERY SPECIFIC: colours, shapes, patterns

**Religious Education*

RECEPTION: Creation, People who care for us, Advent and Christmas

NURSERY: Creation (God the Creator), God our Father cares for us, Advent and Christmas

Spring Term

Winter, Chinese New Year, Mother's day, Spring, Animals, Saint Days

NURSERY SPECIFIC: numbers, Hot and Cold, Self-Help skills, Healthy eating

**Religious Education*

RECEPTION: Baptism, People who help us and Lent

NURSERY: Baptism (my name), God's Family, Holy Week, Easter

Summer Term

Summer, growing, life cycles, Father's Day, mini beasts

NURSERY SPECIFIC: moving on, preparing for transition to school

**Religious Education*

RECEPTION: Holy Week, Pentecost and Prayer

NURSERY: Pentecost and Special Celebrations

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 the children. These will vary year on year depending on the interests of the cohort. Previous topics have included Space, Animals and their habitats. We will keep you up to date with our chosen topics throughout the year.