

## **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum Summary**

Our Early Years provision is delivered in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and is designed to meet the complex and diverse needs of children within a special school setting. We provide a safe, nurturing and highly supportive environment in which children can develop at their own pace.

Children learn primarily through play-based, experiential learning, supported by high-quality, developmentally appropriate resources. A balance of child-initiated and carefully structured adult-led activities enables children to explore, practise and consolidate their learning. Teaching and learning are informed by ongoing observation, assessment and individual targets, ensuring that provision is personalised and responsive.

Our curriculum is inclusive, flexible and holistic, recognising that progress for our children may look different and may be measured in small steps. We place strong emphasis on developing communication, independence, emotional regulation and engagement, alongside academic learning. The Characteristics of Effective Learning are embedded throughout the curriculum and supported through tailored approaches and consistent adult support.

The EYFS framework identifies seven areas of learning and development, all of which are valued and interwoven within our provision:

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

Personal, Social and Emotional Development is central to our curriculum. We support children to develop a sense of self, build trusting relationships with adults and peers, and develop emotional awareness and regulation. Structured routines, visual supports and consistent approaches help children to feel safe, develop independence and learn to manage their behaviour and emotions appropriately.

### Communication and Language (CL)

Communication and Language is a key priority within our setting. We provide a language-rich and communication-friendly environment, tailored to each child's needs. A range of strategies are used, including visual supports, signing, symbols and augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) where appropriate. Children are supported to develop attention, understanding, expressive communication and early interaction skills.

### Physical Development (PD)

Physical Development supports children to develop both gross and fine motor skills, confidence in movement and awareness of their bodies. Activities are adapted to meet individual physical and sensory needs. We also promote children's understanding of personal care and healthy lifestyles, including making healthy choices around food during snack time (nursery and reception) and lunchtime (reception).

### Literacy

Literacy experiences are carefully adapted to meet children at their individual developmental stage. We provide a wide range of books, sensory stories and visual resources to support early reading skills and enjoyment of books. Writing and mark-making are encouraged through a variety of meaningful and creative experiences, including sensory play, technology and alternative methods of recording.

### Mathematics

Mathematics is taught through practical, hands-on experiences embedded in daily routines and play. Activities support children to develop early mathematical understanding, including number awareness, counting, matching, sorting, shape, space and measure, using concrete resources and real-life contexts.

### Understanding the World (UoW)

Understanding the World helps children to make sense of their environment and experiences. Children are supported to explore people, places, technology and the natural world through sensory-rich, practical activities. Opportunities are provided for children to safely use tools and technology, take part in simple investigations and engage with real-life experiences.

### Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

Expressive Arts and Design enables children to explore, create and express themselves through a wide range of media and materials. Children are supported to communicate their thoughts, ideas and emotions through art, music, movement, sensory play, role play and imaginative activities, with adult support tailored to individual needs.