



Reception Curriculum Overview

In the Reception we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) which incorporates seven areas of learning.

There are 3 prime areas of learning:

- Personal Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

- Communication

- Language and Physical Development,

plus 4 specific areas:

- Literacy

- Mathematics

- Understanding the World

- Expressive Arts and Design

PSED

The PSED area of the EYFS focuses on developing boys' skills in forming relationships, developing increasing independence and a positive sense of self, as well as an awareness of the needs and feelings of others. Therefore, the Early Years Department aims to provide a safe and secure environment which allows boys the opportunity to explore and express their own interests, and develop key skills of playing and learning co-operatively. We use 2 different ways to promote positive behaviour, 'Behaviour Chart' – these encourage the boys to behave well in and around school and the prospect of getting an award if they reach the top is very appealing to them. 'Sparkles' are also used as rewards and this helps boys to recognise and be proud of positive behaviour. Developing independence initially begins with toileting, and also includes putting on/taking off coats and shoes, getting themselves ready to go home, and independence in having a drink and snack.

Communication and Language

The EYFS emphasises the importance of boys developing a secure foundation in language and communication before they move onto more formal reading and writing. It is only once they have developed the ability to express ideas verbally, communicate their needs and thoughts, and develop a wide range of vocabulary that boys are able to begin to express this in written form on paper. We use a range of activities and props to encourage the development of language such as puppets, retelling stories, using ICT to record and listen to ourselves and encouraging boys to express ideas and feelings in circle times.

Physical Development

Physical Development is so important in the Reception because movement is the main way in which young boys explore and learn. It is not just about games lessons but also about each boy's fine and gross motor skill development. We work with the boys helping to improve these skills using various techniques such as forming letters or numbers using their finger in different materials such as paint, sand and corn flour, picking up small beads or dried pasta using large tweezers. Boys explore their gross motor skills by using big brushes and water to paint on the walls in our playground, playing with a large ball or riding bikes. Our Music and Movement lessons give boys the opportunity to express themselves and move their bodies in different ways to music. Our specialist PE lessons help them to learn new skills and understand about exercising and keeping healthy.

Literacy:

Writing:

We use print script up to the last term of Reception which is when boys progress to cursive handwriting script. Cursive is where each letter has a lead in and out so it becomes easier to join the letters as the child's writing progresses.

Sounds:

We use Read Write Inc, the Ruth Miskin scheme and the DFES Letters and Sounds Document Reception. Read Write Inc provides a structured and systematic approach to teaching Literacy. It is designed to create fluent readers, confident speakers and willing writers. Read Write Inc ensures high expectations and is designed to promote fast progress for all pupils.

Reading:

In the first couple of weeks in Reception, boys will take home a reading book with no words. This is to encourage discussion about the illustrations, relating the story to the pictures. We encourage the child to always feel comfortable with a book. We help them to hold the book in the correct way, turn pages in the right order and know how to sequence the story from the beginning, middle and end. When the child is ready he will take home a book with words. At first it will have simple high frequency CVC words in it and as the child progresses the book will be longer with more complicated words. We encourage different genres of reading, for example: magazines, comics and non-fiction books.

Mathematics

Mathematical understanding is developed through a variety of practical activities based on everyday situations. Boys are supported to develop mathematical ideas and use related vocabulary while taking part in sorting, matching, ordering, counting, pattern making and working with numbers, shapes and measures. We use our outside area to expand the boys' mathematical knowledge and understanding by looking at shapes and numbers in the environment, counting and sorting different materials found outside or measuring things on a large scale. With parental permission we also walk to our local shop to get hands on experience of using money to purchase ingredients for cooking.

Understanding the World

Boys are encouraged to be curious, ask questions, to experiment and solve problems to help them make sense of the world they live in. A variety of practical experiences build the foundation for later learning about science, design and technology, information and communication technology, history, geography and religious education. The boys in each class attend one session of French every week with a specialist French teacher. During the year they cover topics such as greetings, body parts, colours and numbers 1-10. They also enjoy learning French songs and rhymes.

Expressive Arts and Design

We strongly encourage our boys to be creative and this is done in many ways. The boys are given the opportunity to transform things using various materials such as scissors, paint, glue, crayons, chalks, etc. We use left over boxes and cartons for the boys to junk model with. They also have free access to the easel throughout the day. All boys in Reception attend regular music sessions with a specialist teacher where they explore music from various genres and experiment with musical instruments. They are also given the opportunity to express themselves and move their bodies appropriately to music, moving and dancing freely.