



South Bank Primary School Curriculum Statement

EYFS

2023/2024

Phase Leader: Natalie Innes

Intent

At South Bank Primary School our Early Years Foundation Stage aims to provide children with a high standard of education which focuses on the importance of play and quality interactions. We understand that the experiences for a child between birth to five are paramount in order for a child to succeed socially, emotionally and academically. We pride ourselves on how well we know each child. As skilful practitioners we are able to capture children's interests and move their learning on through a child led approach, fostering a love of learning and independence in a language-rich, inclusive environment.

Reading is integral to our curriculum in Early Years and we aim to instil a lifelong love of reading in our youngest children right from when they join us in Nursery. Our curriculum places books at the heart of learning and we carefully choose fiction, non-fiction and poetry to deepen knowledge, widen vocabulary and evoke responses in our early readers.

"Play builds the kind of free-and-easy, try-it-out, do-it-yourself character that our future needs."

James L. Hymes, Jr.

Implementation

The curriculum provides a play-based and experiential learning environment, combined with focussed teaching and basic skills, to ensure children make rapid progress before moving onto Year 1. The children in both Nursery and Reception are provided with ample opportunities accessible in our indoor and outdoor provision. They engage in planned, focussed activities as well as self-initiated and free flow activities.

The children will learn new skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate understanding through the seven areas of of the EYFS curriculum. These areas are split into three prime areas and four specific areas. The three prime areas are those which the children should develop first and are considered most essential for the healthy development and future learning of our children.

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

We plan in the moment in order to seize teachable moments. This means we are constantly listening and looking out for occasions when a child shows an interest, so that we can build upon that spark so that we can ignite that curiosity, deepen their knowledge and extend their learning. Alongside planning in the moment throughout the year we have pre planned specific themes which will guide the children in their learning journey and ensure full coverage of the curriculum.

Play is the building block of a child's intellectual, social, emotional, physical and language skills. A large portion of a child's day at South Bank Primary is spent accessing the learning environment which is full of rich and open-ended learning resources and opportunities. We also encourage our children's contact with the natural world and their environment. Being outside allows them to be animated, excited, physical and noisy! Forest School is delivered by

a fully trained member of our team who plans and delivers a learning programme that focuses on holistic development and growth in children. During their time at Forest School, with support from our Forest School leader children build problem-solving skills, confidence, independence and resilience as they are allowed to test their limits in the natural world.

We recognise the importance of providing a meaningful language rich environment; we want our children to be able to express themselves and engage in conversations with their friends and adults. We share stories and sing songs regularly throughout the day, as well as using language to support vocabulary and thinking skills. Welcomm is a toolkit we use in order to assess children's language skills, if intervention is needed highly skilled practitioners carry out fun, play based activities in order to move children forward.

In the Summer term of Nursery, children will begin to access Read, Write, Inc, a systematic phonics approach which runs from Nursery age up to Year 6.

Mathematics is taught through daily discrete small group sessions using Power of Maths, a scheme aligned to the White Rose Maths progressions and schemes of learning. Children are able to apply their new learning and skills through our resource rich, purposeful environment whereby they can explore independently or with support from practitioners.

Children are formally assessed at different checkpoints throughout Nursery and Reception in order to measure progress and ensure they are on track to achieve the ELG at the end of the Reception year. Floor books, learning journey displays, dialogue between staff and parents are all used in order to record children's learning and progress across the year. Photographs are used to celebrate children's learning and achievements.

Impact

At South bank Primary School, we aim to ensure that all children across the EYFS achieve their full potential by providing a broad and balanced curriculum. Our creative and balanced provision of learning experiences enables our children to develop as happy, motivated, and independent learners. We strive to ensure each child makes excellent progress from their starting points in Nursery all the way through to the Early Learning Goals at the end of Reception. All children get the best possible start to their school life and develop the knowledge and skills needed to succeed as they continue their learning journey into Key Stage One.

At the end of EYFS our children;

- have strong communication skills, both written and verbal. Our children also listen respectfully and with tolerance to the views of others,
- take pride in all that they do, always striving to do their best,
- demonstrate emotional resilience and the ability to persevere when they encounter challenge,
- develop a sense of self-awareness and become confident in their own abilities,
- are kind, respectful and honest, demonstrate inclusive attitudes and have a sense of their role in our wider society.