

EYFS at The Milestone School

Intent:

Our ambitious school offer underpins the four guiding EYFS principles. On entry, we provide the nurture and support that allows all children the best transition from home and nursery to full time schooling, working collaboratively with parents and multi-agency teams. Through an ambitious curriculum, designed to take account sensory and individual therapy needs, we promote an early love of learning, enabling all pupils to develop and acquire a wider vocabulary to communicate effectively, securing opportunity to enhance their phonic knowledge and providing the foundations for future learning. Teaching children about routines (including health & self-care), promoting learning behaviours which support children's developing personal, social & emotional skills, alongside the development of healthy living skills (including personal safety), are a vital component of our Early Years phase of schooling. The information gained through the EYFS stage is used to inform the curriculum pathway that the child follows in Key Stage 1 (Year 2+), preparing all children well for their next stage.

Implementation:

Through our high-quality learning environment, we promote a love and respect for learning, facilitating and enhancing all pupils learning experiences, where they feel safe, secure, stimulated and happy. The EYFS curriculum is delivered through the prime areas of Communication & Language, Personal, Social & Emotional Development and Physical Development and the specific areas of Literacy, Mathematics, Expressive Arts & Design and Understanding the World. These curriculum strands are woven and timetabled throughout the school day, with the main emphasis being on the prime areas of learning. Pupil engagement is maximised by using unique learning styles and the interests of the children, to plan themed activities; delivered both in and outside of the classroom environment. Adult led and child-initiated play and exploration enables all children to extend their play skills, develop new interests and learn in ways that are appropriate to their age and stage of development and learning style.

Impact:

Our pupils are supported well by trained staff (including their key worker) who understand their needs, respect their learning style and are committed to forming nurturing relationships that provide safety and security. Through the high-quality experiences that the school provides pupils learn, through play, exploration and focused sessions that are relevant to their learning needs. They begin to understand routines, develop behaviours that support their learning and become as autonomous as possible in elements of self-care. Following our robust baseline assessment (pupils starting points), the EYFS assessment tool tracks subsequent progress in all areas. Assessment outcomes support teachers in their planning to ensure all learning remains relevant and provides challenge in the identification of 'next steps' (learning & knowledge builds upon what children know and can do). Children leaving the EYFS phase are well prepared for the next stage of their education; robust assessment outcomes depict the knowledge gained by pupils, informing the curriculum pathways that the children will subsequently follow.

Assessment Framework

