



Alton Infant School

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Intent, Implementation and Impact statement



Intent

EYFS at Alton Infant School has our young pupils at its heart.

Four main points are central to its aim - first hand experiences, knowledge of the world, oracy and well-being. Through their first hand learning experiences, the early years children of Alton Infant School aspire to be: curious, confident, concentration, resilient, brave, and considerate.

We provide our children with a curriculum that is designed to be flexible, engaging and exciting so that their unique needs, passions and interests are fully embraced. Every child is recognised as a unique individual and we celebrate and welcome differences in our school community. We intend to:

- Broaden minds and children's outlook on life.
- Provide experiences of awe and wonder.
- Consider our cohorts backgrounds and experiences.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the school community, Alton community and the wider world.
- Support ALL our families in partnership.
- To be the best they can be.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning are central to our ethos - Playing and exploring; active learning and thinking critically. We consider the individual needs, interests, and development of each child in our care and use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child in all areas of learning and development.

Implementation

Staff in the EYFS work vigorously to create a nurturing environment that fosters personal, social and emotional development and communication and language skills, whilst also promoting a love of learning through our appealing topic based curriculum. We work hard to ensure that every child feels safe and can thrive.

Our strong focus on speech and language development allows children to access the EYFS curriculum and, in turn, make excellent progress towards reaching the good level of development at the end of their Reception year.

Each half term, EYFS staff introduce a new theme to provide inspiration for learning, whilst providing the flexibility for children to follow some of their own interests during discovery time. Children become 'absorbed' into their learning via well-planned imaginative and creative experiences. These experiences engage and motivate the children to explore knowledge and new ideas. The outcomes are celebrated through assemblies, classroom celebrations such as 'Characteristic boards, WOW tree, rainbow, class/team points and as part of individual learning journeys. Children learn through a balance of child initiated and adult directed activities.

Our learning environments, alongside interactions with our skilled practitioners, are carefully planned and resourced to allow children the opportunities to:

- Develop their communication and language skills.
- Build positive relationships with adults and peers.
- Develop confidence, independence, and resilience.
- Develop their gross and fine motor skills.
- Learn through active play and exploration.
- Enjoy learning and have fun.
- Gain the basic skills, knowledge and understanding required to become confident school-ready learners.

In order to account for the individual needs of our children, we implement the curriculum in a purposeful and meaningful way. This is done through high quality teaching of knowledge, skills and vocabulary, which span across the range of areas within the early year's curriculum. We are therefore able to ensure that all children are engaged in becoming creative, resilient, independent and aspirational learners.

Impact

The engagement of the children in Early Years at Alton Infant School will equip them with the foundation of knowledge and skills necessary to access the Key Stage One curriculum. For example, children leaving Year R will have a secure understanding of foundational mathematical and scientific concepts alongside well-established early reading skills. These skills are established through daily phonics, storytelling sessions, and individual reading practice. This range of high quality input uses a wealth of "rich" texts to inspire a love of reading.

Children will have developed the self-esteem and resilience required to be successful learners beyond their time at Alton Infant School, communicating their wants and needs, and using appropriate independence skills to support their learning and life skills.