

ST PAUL'S CHURCH NURSERY SCHOOL

Teaching and Learning Policy

We believe that all children have the right, regardless of culture, race, background, gender or ability, to the best quality care and education.

The Curriculum

We offer a rich indoor and outdoor environment within which we encourage the children's enjoyment of learning and their desire to investigate and question. We provide a broad, stimulating and balanced curriculum, which covers the following seven areas of learning as set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) guidelines:

3 Prime areas:

- PSE (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)
- Physical
- Communication and Language

4 Specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts & Design

The children are able to work towards the Early Learning Goals, whilst developing to the full their unique and individual potential as active learners.

The curriculum is delivered by using topics and developing the children's interests. Planning evolves from close observations of the children's play. The collecting of observations for recording children's progress is ongoing but in addition to this each child is the focus of observations by all staff for one week every term.

Curriculum Planning

The staff team meet at the end of the session to evaluate the day's activities and discuss their observations of the children. Following this, activities are then planned which may further extend the previous learning or provide new skills or experiences. Wherever possible, activities are open-ended to allow children to realise their individual potential. Many of these learning experiences are ongoing and we only record on the planning sheets those that will have particular emphasis on that day, which are usually ones with

an adult focus. At the end of each child's focused observation week an individual target or area for further focus may be noted and activities to help fulfil these targets are built into subsequent plans as appropriate. Parental input into this is also encouraged when feedback is given after the observation week.

The Learning Environment

Appropriate facilities, displays, furniture and equipment are provided to ensure an attractive, relevant and stimulating classroom and outdoor area with due regard to Health and Safety (see policy).

At St Paul's Church Nursery School children may select from a range of activities, some of which have a close adult focus and have the opportunity to observe and experiment with a wide range of resources indoors and out, individually and in groups.

All children attend a group time each day of approximately 20 minutes in which they share some fruit, listen to a story or participate in musical activities. A most important aim of these sessions is to encourage the development of the children's attention and listening skills and to offer them the opportunity to participate in a group.

We expect the children to behave in a way that will ensure a well-ordered and happy learning environment. As such we have certain expectations (e.g. walking when indoors, wearing an apron when painting), which we explain to the children. We also teach the children to care for equipment and to tidy it away after use.

Organisation of Teaching

Staff work in the Nursery together as a team.

The team needs to:

- Know the children well as individuals and understand their needs.
- Communicate effectively and sensitively with one another and the children
- Motivate children to persist at their chosen activity
- Value the children's efforts and offer praise and encouragement
- Have a good understanding of child development
- Be aware of the children's interests and be able to develop these to promote their learning.
- Make their expectations clear
- Encourage autonomy, independence and joy in learning
- Observe, evaluate, plan and monitor the progress of individual children
- Work in partnership with the parents and value their input

- Ask open ended questions
- Plan for children's learning but leave room for spontaneity

Special Educational Needs

All the children with special educational needs are fully integrated and we aim to ensure that they have full access to all aspects of the curriculum and that the curriculum is planned with their individual needs in mind (see S.E.N. policy).

Home/School Partnership

We believe that children learn best where there is good communication between home and school. We try to achieve this through the key worker system, home visiting or pre visits to the Nursery before starting school, regular informal contact and termly discussion between parent and key worker. Parents are also encouraged to take home their child's special book. Parents are encouraged to help in the school in any way in which they feel able.

Staff Development

We aim to provide opportunities for all staff to develop their expertise in all areas of teaching and learning. Areas for development are listed in the school development plan. This may take place through training days for all staff or courses for individuals. Appraisal for staff takes place annually providing staff with opportunities to agree areas for development.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Nursery held on 20th June 2006 and reviewed on a three year cycle in line with the School Development Plan.

Signed on behalf of the Management Committee

Signed on behalf of the Nursery _____ Date _____

Review date _____