

## January 2022

The statutory framework for the EYFS, Early Years Foundation Stage, sets the standards for learning, development and care for children birth to 5 years.

### Intent

At St Matthew's playgroup we intend that our inclusive curriculum educates all children in knowledge, skills and understanding, to be effective, inquisitive, curious, independent learners and influence their wider thinking across all areas of the curriculum. **Fundamental British Values** are at the heart of our curriculum and everything we do, we focus on promoting kindness, acceptance and friendship with each other and the wider community.

We understand that language and communication skills are key to developing good relationships and confidence and about creating opportunities for children to communicate more easily through developing language and communication skills. We wish our children to believe in themselves and their abilities and capabilities and to become successful learners both in their early years and throughout their educational journey.

It is our intention that children experience the seven areas of learning through a balance of whole class/group teaching and play based learning. This is through the children's interests, topics, themes, continuous provision activities, emphasis is on a balance of adult led and child-initiated play. Learning is carefully planned by the staff to support communication and language development; personal, social and emotional development; and physical development as well as literacy, mathematics, understanding of the world and expressive arts and design and is tailored to suit the needs and interests of each child.

### Implementation

*We believe children learn best through play.*

Our curriculum is designed to give children first-hand learning experiences and allowing the children to develop interpersonal skills, build resilience and become creative, critical thinkers to enable them to challenge themselves. We plan through a topic-based approach, these plans are adapted and amended to address the ever growing and changing needs and interests of all our children and show diversity in incorporating environmental and cultural celebrations.

The staff at St Matthew's playgroup hold good levels of qualifications and to meet the changing needs of the children and curriculum, continue to develop their knowledge and skills through regular training and CPD

We recognise that language and communication are vital in all areas of a child's development. We welcome children from culturally diverse backgrounds and some of our children are at an early stage of learning English as an additional language (EAL). Communication and language development are therefore a consistent focus. We support children's development by providing a rich language environment, where conversations, singing and sharing stories become a regular part of the children's day.

To support this St Matthew's playgroup have '**key books**' which we read frequently with the children. These books are the type of books that can be re-visited again and again, on different levels to support language development. The idea is that children will develop language and increase vocabulary in addition to gaining a love of books and will become very familiar with these known texts so that they can remember and re-tell them. Our '**key books**' are:

See the source image    See the source image    See the source image

See the source image    \_See the source image\_\_See the source image

We believe that singing and music to be important in developing language skills for children of all ages, abilities and cultural background and have several '**key songs**' Along with books, regular song time allows children to express themselves through sound, children can build up a repertoire of rhymes and can join in with vocalisations and actions and this being inclusive for everyone.

Our '**key songs**' are

- Twinkle Twinkle little star
- The wheels on the bus
- Incy Wincy spider
- Hickory Dickory Dock
- Wind the bobbin up
- If you're happy and you know it

We believe learning through play is key, we use the environment to ensure the children's needs are met through continuous provision, enhanced provision and following their interests. Staff teach an objective through whole class, small group teaching and going into provision to observe children's play and move learning forward at that point. They record 'snapshot' evidence of children's learning to build an overall picture, set next steps for learning and use the EYFS development matters to support this. Formative assessment takes place within every session and helps staff to identify any children that needs more support to achieve the objective and those that need challenging.

### **Impact**

The broad and balanced curriculum design ensures that the needs of individual children including EAL, SEND and disadvantaged, and small groups of children can be met within the environment of high-quality teaching supported by targeted interventions where needed. In this way it can be seen to be impacting in a very positive way on pupil outcomes. We endeavour for pupils to be Reception ready and prepared for the next phase at primary school. Progress is measured through initial assessments completed following a settling in period, essential information is included from parents and continual monitoring both visual and written reports and completed regularly by children's key worker.

The impact of our curriculum will also, in fact, be measured by how effectively it helps our pupils develop into well rounded individuals who embody our values and carry with them the knowledge, skills and attitudes which will make them lifelong learners and valuable future citizens.

**St Matthew's playgroup believe that a safe, friendly environment will allow children to grow, learn and develop in to happy, kind and confident learners.**