

Vision Statement for Early Years

At St Thomas', we offer a curriculum rich in wonder and memorable experiences. It is our intent that all children develop physically, verbally, cognitively and emotionally in an environment which values all cultures, communities and people. We work hard to provide a safe, supportive and stimulating environment that provides exciting opportunities, promotes challenge, explorations, adventure and a real love for learning.

We aim for our children to be confident and independent, to believe in themselves and interact positively with others. We understand that play is an integral part of learning and this is at the heart of our early years curriculum. We strive to ensure our children develop the necessary skills, knowledge and attitude to achieve fulfilling lives.

St Thomas' early years pupils will progress both academically and socially, developing a sense of themselves before transitioning into Year One. We believe that the correct mix of adult-directed and uninterrupted child-initiated play ensures the best outcomes for our pupils. Children will develop their characteristics of learning and be able to apply their knowledge to a range of situations making links and explaining their ideas and understanding. Children will be confident to take risks and discuss their successes and failures with peers and adults drawing on their experiences to improve or adjust what they are doing.

This will be done by forming warm and positive relationships between staff and children, consistent routines and strong relationships with parents. We recognise the crucial role that early year's education has to play in providing firm foundations upon which the rest of a child's education is successfully based.

We grow together in Early Years by:

- Creating a language rich environment through songs, nursery rhymes and stories
- Communicating with others during investigations and play
- Providing opportunities for meaningful conversations between children and adults
- Developing a love for reading and books through engaging texts
- Making and learning from mistakes
- Developing confidence and being part of a group taking turns and sharing fairly
- Developing core muscles through physical play
- Using interests and real life experiences to develop mark making opportunities
- Being imaginative and recreating roles and experiences
- Developing through exploration and sensory experiences
- Adopting a problem solving and investigational approach by supporting children to take risks during their exploration
- Knowing that children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates
- Becoming confident mathematicians and applying knowledge to real life experiences
- Looking at numbers in detail, including their composition, and developing mathematical thinking through teaching and exploration
- Observing and reflecting on children's spontaneous play and monitoring their development in all areas of the curriculum to inform and adapt future planning
- Spending time outdoors in all weathers
- Discussing and providing opportunities to explore the cultures and communities that create the world around them
- Providing educational trips and visitors

As EYFS practitioners we aim to follow our school's curriculum vision in order to: ***Be Curious, Be Knowledgeable, Be Creative, Be Compassionate, Be Reflective, Be Courageous.***

Growing together through faith in Jesus Christ, '**Let all you do be done in love.**'
(1 Corinthians 16).