Monkleigh Primary School and Nursery EYFS

Intent

Our Vision

At Monkleigh Primary School and Nursery, we believe that the Early Years Foundation Stage provides the foundations for lifelong learning. From a child's earliest experiences in our Baby Room from 9 months of age through to the end of Reception, we are committed to ensuring every child is nurtured, challenged and inspired to become a confident, happy and successful learner.

We recognise that children develop rapidly in their earliest years and that secure foundations are built through warm, positive relationships, high-quality interactions and carefully planned learning experiences. Our ambition is for every child to develop physically, socially, emotionally, verbally and cognitively whilst fostering a love of learning and a sense of belonging within our school community.

Curriculum and Learning

We are committed to developing the whole unique child. We provide a challenging, ambitious and inclusive curriculum that is carefully sequenced from 9 months to the end of Reception and prepares children for future success. High expectations are held for all children regardless of their starting points, and we skilfully adapt provision to ensure every child can flourish and achieve their full potential.

Our curriculum goals clearly define the knowledge, skills and experiences that we want children to secure by the end of each phase of the EYFS. Using Development Matters and the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, we have developed a curriculum that reflects the unique context of our school and community.

Communication, Language and Reading

Communication and Language underpin everything we do and are a key priority throughout our EYFS provision. From babies learning to communicate through gestures, sounds and interactions, to Reception children confidently articulating ideas and engaging in meaningful discussions, high-quality language development is woven through every aspect of daily life.

We are committed to fostering a love of books, stories and language. Through stories, songs, rhymes, conversation, play and explicit vocabulary teaching, children are immersed in rich language experiences that enable them to develop strong communication skills and a growing understanding of the world around them.

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum. Children are immersed in stories and high-quality texts from their earliest days in the Baby Room. In Reception, children begin structured Read Write Inc. phonics teaching, carefully matched to their stage of development, to ensure they become confident and successful readers.

Environment and Experiences

Our Baby Room provides a nurturing, stimulating and language-rich environment where children develop secure attachments, confidence, independence and curiosity. Through responsive caregiving, play, exploration and meaningful interactions, our youngest learners begin their journey of communication, physical development and personal, social and emotional growth.

Children benefit from a wealth of first-hand experiences designed to broaden horizons and enhance learning. isits to local libraries, woodland and beach experiences, walks within the local community and opportunities to engage with local organisations enrich children's understanding of the world and provide meaningful contexts for learning.

Partnership with Families

We recognise that parents and carers are children's first educators. Strong partnerships between home and school are fundamental to children's success.

Through home visits, stay-and-play sessions, parent workshops, online learning journeys, curriculum information and regular communication, we work collaboratively with families to ensure every child receives the support they need to thrive.

Preparation for the Future

Our ultimate aim is that every child leaves Reception as a confident, resilient and independent learner, equipped with the knowledge, skills and attitudes required for the next stage of their education. Children develop the characteristics of effective learning, secure communication and language skills, a love of reading and a curiosity about the world around them.

At Monkleigh Primary School and Nursery, we believe that the beginning of a child's educational journey is transformative. Through exceptional care, ambitious learning opportunities and meaningful relationships, we ignite a lifelong love of learning and fulfil our vision of **Monkleigh being a place to smile and a place to succeed.**

Implementation

Our Vision in Practice

At Monkleigh Primary School and Nursery, children learn through a carefully planned balance of adult-led teaching, adult-guided learning and child-initiated play. Our curriculum is delivered through meaningful experiences, high-quality interactions and an engaging environment that promotes curiosity, creativity and independence.

Strong, secure relationships are at the heart of our provision. In the Baby Room and Nursery, staff provide responsive, nurturing care that supports children's emotional wellbeing, communication development and sense of security.

Curriculum and Learning

Learning is planned through carefully sequenced curriculum overviews which identify the key knowledge, vocabulary, texts, experiences and skills children will acquire across the year. Planning is informed by Development Matters, the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and our EYFS curriculum goals.

Staff use ongoing assessment and professional knowledge of individual children to adapt learning experiences, ensuring teaching remains ambitious, engaging and responsive to children's needs and interests.

Throughout the EYFS, the Characteristics of Effective Learning are embedded within daily practice. Children are encouraged to:

- Play and Explore
- Actively Learn
- Create and Think Critically

Communication, Language and Reading

Communication and Language is central to all areas of learning. Staff use high-quality interactions, sustained shared thinking, storytelling, songs, rhymes and purposeful conversation to extend children's vocabulary and deepen understanding.

Reading and language development are fundamental priorities. Children are immersed in stories, nursery rhymes and book-sharing experiences from the Baby Room onwards. In Reception, children access systematic Read Write Inc. phonics teaching with learning carefully matched to individual needs.

Regular assessment identifies children who require additional support, enabling timely intervention and ensuring all children develop confidence and success as readers.

Environment and Experiences

High-quality continuous provision plays a significant role in our curriculum. Both indoor and outdoor environments are carefully designed to promote independence, enquiry, challenge and exploration.

Resources are organised purposefully so children can independently access, apply and deepen their learning while adults skilfully extend thinking through observation, interaction and questioning.

Rich first-hand experiences and educational visits enhance learning and provide meaningful opportunities for children to apply new knowledge and vocabulary in real-life contexts.

Partnership with Families

Partnerships with parents and carers form an essential part of our implementation. Through parent workshops, stay-and-play sessions, regular communication and online learning journeys, families are actively involved in their child's learning journey.

Parents are provided with information and support to reinforce learning at home and celebrate children's achievements.

Preparation for the Future

Assessment is an integral part of practice and enables practitioners to identify achievements, monitor progress and plan next steps. Children's progress is tracked through ongoing assessment, the Two-Year Progress Check, Reception Baseline Assessment and the EYFS Profile.

Through excellent teaching, nurturing relationships, ambitious expectations and carefully planned experiences, children develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to become successful learners who are ready for Year 1 and beyond.

Impact

Our Vision Realised

The impact of our EYFS curriculum is evident in the happy, confident, independent and enthusiastic learners who progress through our setting from 9 months to the end of Reception.

Children feel safe, valued and secure within a nurturing environment where they develop positive attitudes to themselves, others and learning.

Curriculum and Learning

As a result of our ambitious curriculum, children make strong progress from their individual starting points. They develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to access future learning and demonstrate increasing independence, resilience and self-regulation.

Children confidently engage with challenges, persevere when difficulties arise and show curiosity and enthusiasm in their learning.

Communication, Language and Reading

Communication and Language outcomes are a particular strength of our provision. Children develop a rich vocabulary, communicate effectively with adults and peers and increasingly articulate their ideas, thoughts and understanding.

Children develop a love of books and stories and make strong progress in early reading. Through our systematic approach to phonics and reading, children acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to become fluent and confident readers who are fully prepared for the demands of Key Stage One.

Environment and Experiences

Children develop a secure understanding of themselves, their community and the wider world. Through carefully planned experiences and enrichment opportunities, they build cultural capital, deepen their understanding and make meaningful connections in their learning.

Children demonstrate increasing confidence, independence and responsibility when accessing resources, making choices and exploring their environment.

Partnership with Families

Strong relationships between home and school ensure that children's achievements are recognised, celebrated and supported. Parents and carers play an active role in their child's learning journey and contribute positively to children's progress and wellbeing.

Preparation for the Future

The impact of our curriculum is measured through:

- Ongoing formative assessment and observations
- The Two-Year Progress Check
- Reception Baseline Assessment outcomes
- EYFS Profile outcomes
- Learning Journey evidence
- Pupil voice
- Monitoring of teaching and learning
- Children's engagement and participation
- Successful transition into Year 1

By the end of Reception, children at Monkleigh Primary School and Nursery are confident, articulate, resilient and motivated learners who are academically, socially and emotionally

prepared for the next stage of their education. They leave the EYFS with secure foundations, a love of learning and the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to flourish as lifelong learners.