

St. Columba's Catholic Primary School Early Years Foundation Stage Long Term Plan



Aims of the Early Years Foundation Stage

In the EYFS setting at St. Columba's Catholic Primary School we believe that all children are entitled to the best possible start in their school life, both intellectually and emotionally, in order to enable them to develop their full potential. We aim to support each child's welfare, learning and developmental needs by:

- Helping children grow in the awareness that God loves each one of us, that we need to learn to love him and that we show our love for him by helping one another.
- Recognising that all children are unique and special.
- Understanding that children develop in individual ways and at varying rates - physically, cognitively, linguistically, socially and emotionally.
- Providing a safe, secure and caring environment where children feel happy and know that they are valued by the practitioners looking after them.
- Fostering and nurturing children's self-confidence and self-esteem through their developing awareness of their own identity and role within the community.
- Teaching them to express and communicate their needs and feelings in appropriate ways.
- Encouraging children's independence and decision-making, supporting them to learn through their mistakes.
- Developing children's understanding of social skills and the values and codes of behaviour required for people to work together harmoniously.
- Supporting children to develop care, respect and appreciation for others, including those with beliefs, cultures and opinions, which differ from their own.
- Understanding the importance of play in children's learning and development.
- Providing learning experiences in play, which reflect children's personal interests and areas of curiosity in order to encourage and develop their natural desire, interest, excitement and motivation to learn.
- Providing experiences which build on children's existing knowledge and understanding in order to challenge, stimulate and extend their learning and development.
- Providing effective learning opportunities in a range of environments, inside and outside.

The Early Years Foundation Stage framework

Teaching in the EYFS setting at St. Columba's Catholic Primary School is delivered in accordance with the government's statutory document 'The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage' (March 2014). This document is a principled approach to Early Years education, bringing together children's welfare, learning and development requirements.

Characteristics of effective learning	
Playing and exploring	
Active learning	
Creative and thinking critically	
Prime areas	Specific areas
Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Literacy
Making Relationships	Reading
Self-confidence & Self-awareness	Writing
Managing Feelings & Behaviour	Mathematics
Communication & Language	Numbers
Listening & Attention	Shape, Space & Measure
Understanding	Understanding the World
Speaking	People & Communities
Physical Development	The World
Moving & Handling	Technology
Health & Self-care	Expressive Arts & Design
	Exploring & Using Media & Materials
	Being Imaginative

These Areas of Learning and Development address children's physical, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development. No one aspect of development stands in isolation from the others as all Areas of Learning and Development are all closely interlinked. This ensures the delivery of a holistic, child-centred curriculum, which allows children to make lots of links between what they are learning. All Areas of Learning and Development are given equal weighting and value.

Active Learning through Play

At St. Columba's Catholic Primary School we recognise that young children learn best when they are active. We understand that active learning involves other people, objects, ideas and events that engage and involve children for sustained periods. Therefore, we believe that Early Years education should be as practical as possible and our EYFS setting has an ethos of learning through play. We recognise the importance of children's play. It is an essential and rich part of their learning process, supporting them in all areas of development. Play is a powerful motivator encouraging children to be creative and to develop their ideas, understanding and language. Play is also flexible and able to suit the preferred learning style of the child. It can provide multiple ways for children to learn a variety of different skills and concepts. In the EYFS setting at St. Columba's Catholic Primary School practitioners provide both structured and unstructured play opportunities inside and outside. These activities are designed to engage children in practical, first-hand experiences, which will support children to discover, explore, investigate, develop their personal interests and areas of curiosity, and help to make sense of the world around them as they begin to understand specific concepts. Play opportunities are also set up to provide children with opportunities to apply newly acquired knowledge, demonstrating their skills and level of understanding. In providing these active learning opportunities through play we understand the central position of play within the EYFS framework. This is essentially a play-based curriculum and pedagogy as the provision of play opportunities underpins its delivery within the setting.

Religious Education Curriculum – The Way, The Truth and The Life

Our primary role is the teaching of the Catholic faith and we do this by placing Christ at the centre of everything we do. We believe that our school is a special place. Rooted in the Catholic faith our aim is for each child to thrive, achieving their full potential, academically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. We want all our children to find school life interesting, challenging and enjoyable

To fulfil our Aims and Objectives as a Catholic School we use *'The Way, the Truth & the Life' programme*. The aim of this curriculum within the Early Years Foundation Stage is to help children grow in the awareness that God loves each one of us immensely and to explore ways in which we can show our love for Him. The great strength of this series is its simplicity and clarity. It is attractive, lively, practical and therefore appealing to children.

Children will be given the opportunity to relate what they are learning to their own lives. There will be opportunities to help them understand what it means to be part of a family and that we all belong to God's family. Incidents in the daily life of the classroom and playground will provide opportunities for children to experience the love and care of adults. They will then be able to help children to understand that God is our Father in heaven and to think about what this means for us. We always start with the children's experience, explore it, build on it and then connect it to the religious content.

Overview of EYFS Syllabus

Nursery	Autumn	N1: God's Wonderful World	N2: My Family	Spring	N3: The Holy Family	N4: Good Friends	Summer	N5: New Life	N6: Our Church Family
R.E		R1: God's World	R2: God's Family		R3: Getting to know Jesus	R4: Sorrow & Joy		R5: New Life	R6: Our Church Family

Long Term Plan

Our topics are delivered with careful consideration given to which themes, stories and experiences enthuse our children and produce the most powerful learning; while remaining flexible enough to respond to children's interests. The topics we introduce are starting points for the children's play and learning and we are keen to develop topics following the children's interests and ideas. The topics that we cover are very flexible and interest driven by the children we have in the setting. There are a lot of topic linked learning opportunities available during the child-initiated time, but the children are also able to access other resources if their interests and learning take them in other directions.

Topic

Nursery	Autumn	All About Me	Let's Celebrate	Spring	A Walk on the Wild Side	Ready Steady Grow (Minibeasts)	Summer	Ready Steady Grow (Planting)	People Who Help Us
Reception		Me & Myself & I	Celebrations		Fantasy	Traditional Tales		Healthy Eating	Superheroes