

Early Years Curriculum at Kilby St. Mary's

At Kilby St. Mary's we pride ourselves on creating strong, caring and personal relationships with all our children and their families. We provide an exciting and varied curriculum, with lots of opportunities to learn through play, interaction and exploration. This ensures a secure foundation on which to build each child's individual learning and development journey and allows each child to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

We use the seven areas of learning and development in the EYFS statutory framework to shape the educational programmes we offer in our early years setting. These areas of learning and development are inter-connected and much of the learning that takes place involves multiple areas of development.

The seven areas of learning are:

Prime areas

These three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving. These are:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

Specific areas

These four areas strengthen and apply the prime areas. These are:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

P.E. provision in EYFS at Kilby St. Mary's

P.E. provision in our EYFS is covered in the 'Physical Development' area of the statutory framework for EYFS. Physical activity is a vital part of our children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives. We recognise that gross and fine motor experiences develop incrementally throughout early childhood, involving lots of sensory exploration. Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being. Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye co-ordination, which is later linked to early literacy. We provide repeated and varied opportunities for the children to explore and play with small world activities, puzzles, arts and crafts, play dough, sand, water and the use of small tools. As we provide support and feedback, our children are able to develop proficiency, control, safe practice and confidence in a range of situations. We also provide structured physical development opportunities through adult led P.E. sessions that allow the children to learn how to use a range of sporting equipment and apparatus in a fun and safe way. Our children also benefit from specialist P.E. support from LSSP with a 'Big Moves' programme which strengthens their core muscles in readiness for life long movement and learning. In addition to these lessons, our children have opportunities throughout each day to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. We have access to a wonderful outdoor area, specifically designed for our EYFS children, as well as a large tarmac area with provision for football and basketball where we also get to use our bikes and scooters. The large playing field provides space for team games and our end of year sports day.

Children in Reception will be learning to:

- Revise and refine the fundamental movement skills they have already acquired: rolling; crawling; walking; jumping; running; hopping; skipping; climbing.
- Progress towards a more fluent style of moving, with developing control and grace.
- Develop the overall body strength, co-ordination, balance and agility needed to engage successfully with future physical education sessions and other physical disciplines including dance, gymnastics, sport and swimming.
- Develop their small motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently. Suggested tools: pencils for drawing and writing, paintbrushes, scissors, knives, forks and spoons.

- Use their core muscle strength to achieve a good posture when sitting at a table or sitting on the floor.
- Combine different movements with ease and fluency.
- Confidently and safely use a range of large and small apparatus indoors and outside, alone and in a group. Develop overall body-strength, balance, co-ordination and agility. Further develop and refine a range of ball skills including: throwing, catching, kicking, passing, batting, and aiming. Develop confidence, competence, precision and accuracy when engaging in activities that involve a ball.
- Develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient.
- Further develop the skills they need to manage the school day successfully: • lining up and queuing • mealtimes

Assessment is ongoing and integral to the child's learning and development process and then shapes the teaching and learning experiences offered. We use Evidence Me to capture ongoing observations of the child's learning to support our understanding of each child's learning journey.

At the final term of the EYFS year the **Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)** is completed for each child. It measures the child's learning and development against the **Early Learning Goals (ELG)**. This provides parents and carers, practitioners and teachers with a well-rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities, their attainment against expected levels, and their readiness for year 1.

ELG: Gross Motor Skills

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others;
- Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing;
- Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing.

ELG: Fine Motor Skills

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing - using the tripod grip in almost all cases;
- Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paint brushes and cutlery;
- Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.