



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

Art and Design provision in EYFS at Kilby St. Mary's

Art and Design provision in our EYFS is covered in the 'Expressive Arts and Design' area of the statutory framework for EYFS.

We recognise that artistic expression can occur within all areas of learning and development. We encourage the development of our children's artistic and cultural awareness to support their creativity and self-expression. We recognise the importance of allowing our children to have regular opportunities to engage with the arts and explore by producing their own artistic representations in response to what they see and hear. We expose our children to a wide range of artistic styles and materials to develop their artistic skills and enable them to express their thoughts and emotions through the medium of art.

We follow the Kapow scheme and have weekly adult led art sessions that involve a specific focus on developing different techniques and allow them to experience the use of varied materials.

In addition, we provide opportunities for artistic exploration and expression within continuous provision – for example providing natural materials, scissors and glue on a 'seasons' collage table, or provide different tools with which to shape and model play dough creations.

Children in Reception will be learning to:

- Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings.
- Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them.
- Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills.

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: Creating with Materials

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.
- Share their creations, explaining the process they have used.
- Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.

