



EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS)

At St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School, we believe that our Nursery and Reception children learn best when they are at the centre of learning, feel safe, are well motivated and having fun.

Our aim throughout the foundation stage is to provide a happy, secure and stimulating environment in partnership with parents and carers who have already helped their child begin the learning journey.

Our Early Years team have high expectations of what our children can achieve. We do our best to ensure that all children overcome any barriers to learning so that they can achieve their potential.

We believe that all children should be supported to achieve the good level of development as defined in the Early Years Foundation Stage and have the opportunities to develop their characteristics of effective learning.

It is through play, both indoors and outdoors, that children begin to experience and learn about the world around them and how to cope with life's many adventures and challenges.

Our ethos is underpinned by teaching of the Catholic Church and Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. An integral part of our EYFS provision is our Forest School curriculum and all of our EYFS pupils have the opportunity to take part in weekly Forest School activities with our EYFS Lead, who is a Level 3 Forest School Practitioner.



In 2019 we were awarded the ICAN accreditation, which states that we offer our children an enhanced service for children's communication, and meet the standards set for good practice related to supporting the communication and language skills of all children, including those with identified SLCN, working collaboratively with other professionals and parents. Accreditation recognises good practice in providing targeted support for children in the setting, and in the identification and referral of children with SLCN.

We were also awarded the Quality Mark, which stated "The Early Years Foundation Stage is a highly stimulating environment which provides children with opportunities to explore and develop their learning skills in the key areas of the Early Years curriculum. The Early Years team sets high expectations of what the children can achieve. They work effectively to ensure that all groups of children overcome any barriers to learning so that they thrive within a creative and exciting curriculum. The school's vision is "Aiming for Excellence - Being the Best We Can Be".



At St Robert Southwell, we plan our learning in Foundation Stage around the EYFS curriculum as follows:

Characteristics of effective learning:

- playing and exploring
- active learning
- creating and thinking critically

The prime areas of learning:

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

The specific areas of learning:

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

There is a document at the end of this page which explains the **Early Years Learning Goals** and how you can help your child in more detail. We are currently part of the government's 'EYFS Early Adopter Scheme' - more details can be found in the attached letter.

We use the Tapestry On-line Learning Journey system throughout the EYFS. All children in Nursery and Reception classes have a personal on-line Learning Journey which will contain observations, photographs and videos documenting key moments of learning and progress. The evidence collected is a record of your child's experiences and achievements during their time with us, and will be linked in to the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. In addition to our contributions we encourage you to add to it by adding your own photographs and comments, or commenting on observations added by us. To access the Tapestry site, and to log in to your account please use this link: [tapestryjournal.com](https://www.tapestryjournal.com)

USEFUL WEBSITES AND APPS:

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading-owl/at-school>

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>