**ST OSWALD’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**With Christ at the centre of our community,**

**our mission is to live, love and learn as Jesus taught us.**



**Early Years Foundation Stage Policy**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of their reception year. St Oswald’s Early Years Foundation Stage accommodates children from the age of 4 to 5.

**Aims**

At St Oswald’s Catholic Primary School we aim to provide the highest quality care and education for all our children therefore giving them the strong foundation for their future. We aim to ensure that all our children develop into independent and lifelong learners.

***“When we succeed in giving every child the best start in their early years, we give them what they need today. We also set them up with every chance of success tomorrow.”***

*Development Matters Sept 2020*

Our high expectations will enable children to develop socially, physically, intellectually and emotionally and to achieve their full potential. We will ensure that all our children are kept healthy and safe and that they achieve the knowledge and skills they need to start in Key Stage One.

**Curriculum**

Reception follow the curriculum as outlined in the EYFS document.

The EYFS is based on seven key features of effective practice as set out in Development Matters 2020

**1. The best for every child**

**2. High-quality care**

**3. The curriculum: what we want children to learn**

**4. Pedagogy: helping children to learn**

**5. Assessment: checking what children have learnt**

**6. Self-regulation and executive function**

**7. Partnership with parents**

**All seven areas of learning and development are important and interconnected.**

As part of our best practice we:

* Provide a balanced curriculum, based on the EYFS, across the seven areas of learning
* Promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice
* Provide early intervention for those who need additional support
* Work in partnership with parents and where needed outside agencies
* Plan challenging learning experiences for all our children, based on the individual needs of the child
* Provide opportunities for our children to engage in adult led learning and self- initiated learning
* Provide a secure and safe learning environment indoors and outdoors
* Plan an exciting and challenging curriculum based on our observations of children’s needs, interests and stages of development across the seven areas of learning

**Areas of Learning:**

The EYFS is made up of three **prime areas** of learning:

* Personal, Social and Emotional Development
* Communication and Language
* Physical Development

There are four **specific areas** of learning:

* Literacy
* Maths
* Understanding the World
* Expressive Arts and Design

At St Oswald’s Catholic Primary School children are provided with a range of rich, meaningful first hand experiences, in which children can explore, think creatively and are active. We provide a well -balanced curriculum and our planning ensures that each child has the opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in every area of the EYFS. Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful activities and through a mix of adult led and child initiated learning.

**Inclusion**

We value the diversity of individuals within the school and do not discriminate against any child because of any differences. Being unique is celebrated.

All children receive quality first teaching on a daily basis and activities are differentiated accordingly. In addition to this where children have been identified as having a specific need intervention programmes will be implemented. Teachers and Teaching Assistants plan programmes together and where needed with liaison with the Special Needs Co-ordinator. The needs of children with English as an additional language will be met through planning and support of the teachers.

**Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

* Assessments are made in line with the EYFS
* Daily practice includes observations of children’s development and progress
* Discussions are held with all adults in EYFS about individual children’s development and next steps
* Observations of children’s’ achievements are recorded in their learning journeys which are shared with parents
* An end of year report is provided to all parents/carers on their child’s development against the characteristics of learning
* At the end of Reception children are assessed against the Early Learning Goals for each area of learning

Working with Parents:

At St Oswald’s we recognise that parents are the children’s first and most enduring educators and that when parents and teachers work together the results have a positive impact on children’s development and learning.

We encourage parent partnership through:

* Showing respect and understanding for the role of the parent in the child’s education
* Making parents feel welcome by being approachable
* Being flexible in arrangements to settle children in
* Meeting to discuss progress
* Using Seesaw so parents can access at home
* Encouraging comments in the Home Learning Books
* Inviting parents in to share events
* Inviting parents to relevant workshops eg Phonics, Number skills etc

**Transitions**

At St Oswald’s Catholic Primary School we recognise that starting school and moving up classes has the potential to be a stressful time for both parents and children. To this end we have established a strong set of procedures for transitions to be smooth as possible. All children starting St Oswald’s are included in ‘The Little Owls’ Induction Programme. Visits to the local nurseries are also carried out which gives children the security of meeting with their teacher in a safe, familiar environment and gives parents time to ask questions and share knowledge or any concerns they have about their child.

All children starting in Reception have a booklet to complete during the summer break and parents are given a ‘School Readiness’ booklet. Parents are also encouraged to create a Treasure Box with their child over the summer which includes special things related to their child’s interests. The Treasure Boxes are used to create a ‘personalised curriculum’ when the child starts school in September.

In the summer term all our Reception children visit their new Year 1 teachers on two occasions prior to them starting Year 1. Reception teachers pass on their knowledge of each child’s development, progress and achievement towards the early learning goals to ensure that all teachers have a well -rounded picture of the children prior to starting the new school year.

**Health and Safety and Safeguarding**

Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them. We follow the safeguarding and welfare requirements detailed in the ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ statutory guidance and adhere to the schools safeguarding policy.

We are a healthy school and participate in the free fruit for under-fives scheme and provide the universal infant free school meal. We cater for those children who have special dietary requirements and have robust systems in place ensuring that all children receive the correct meal.

Fresh water is readily available for all children and we encourage children to bring in water bottles with water only.

Children are taught the importance of keeping clean and washing their hands correctly.

The welfare of every child is paramount at St Oswald’s and every effort is made to ensure that every child feels safe and happy at school.

Monitoring Arrangements:

This policy will be reviewed every Summer Term.

Next review is June 2022

