

Rationale for our Early Years curriculum design at Defford

Our curriculum embraces all that we want our children to learn within our Early Years across the 7 areas of learning. A rich and ambitious language base underpins all our learning, supporting children to develop vocabulary relevant to their understanding and interests, as well as equipping them with new and exciting words to enable them to become successful communicators. Developing a love for learning, taking risks and becoming independent and resilient individuals underpins our menu of activities and play opportunities.

Guided by each child as an individual we structure our learning opportunities by listening to children's interests, communicating with parents and immersing ourselves in the world of our children. Allowing children the flexibility to explore, create and think critically about their learning we strive to support a strong base for future learning in our school. Allowing a flexible approach to our curriculum design allows us to react to the needs and demands of the current cohort of learners, considering their ages and baseline on entry to our setting.



'Through Faith, Friendship and Fun we learn and grow'

Defford-cum-Besford CE First School

Key features of our Early Years learning environment

- A focus on outdoor learning
- A nurturing and inclusive approach to every child
- Play based philosophy to learning and skill development

CURRICULUM INTENT:

We develop knowledge and respect for the world around us, marveling in the nature we are surrounded by. We embrace the natural world, allowing time and consideration for the changing seasons, the weather and animals that create our unique learning space outside. We build resilience, strength and determination through playful activities, allowing our children to **build faith** in themselves and **develop respectful relationships** with those around them. Through a wealth of learning opportunities we have fun, laugh, care and support our children to explore and grow with confidence, striving to try their best in all aspects of their lives as the Christian faith guides us to.



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IMPLEMENTATION:

Our environment is shaped to offer every child opportunities to learn and develop. We recognise every child learns in a unique way and we aim to carefully guide each child to take the steps that are appropriate to them. We reflect upon our environment weekly, changing our provision according to the needs of the children in our care. This allows us to provide a challenging and purposeful environment where children are stimulated and excited about the opportunities for learning around them. The resources we use reflect the skills we are aiming to develop. The relationships we build with our children allow them to feel safe and secure to take risks and through careful choice of language we scaffold and build upon prior learning, allowing children to progress and reflect.

Ambitious language underpins our learning and our daily routines reflect the importance of opportunities for talk. Becoming interested and confident communicators means a love for listening is enriched through story times, singing and games.

The themes we embrace take account of our pupils and their cultures. We carefully and sensitively introduce new concepts and ideas to our learning, considering the ever changing world our children are living in. Through respect and kindness we nurture ourselves and those around us.

IMPACT:

The nurturing approach to each unique child is evident in the confident learners of our setting. Children in our Early Years persevere, take risks and demonstrate independence in the manner they explore their environment. They show engagement and motivation for the learning opportunities around them and a clear love of the natural world. Through our weekly forest school sessions children develop strength and coordination, vital to their learning in all areas of the Early Years.

The warm and caring feedback from parents and carers demonstrates the relationships we have built with the wider family of our children. Parents are enthusiastic to join in with trips and events or helping hear children read weekly, becoming a part of our Early Years family.

Our children epitomize the caring, fun and kind setting we enjoy at Defford.