

EYFS

Sacred Heart RC Primary School

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

- The Early Years Foundation Stage is the period of education from birth to 5. It begins when a child enters nursery and ends in the Reception year.
- During this stage all children work towards a set of targets called Early Learning Goals.
- Most children are expected to achieve the Early Learning Goals by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

What is the aim of the Early Years Foundation Stage?

To provide a firm “foundation” which will underpin all future learning.

In 2010-2011 Dame Claire Tickell undertook a review of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. In September 2012 her recommendations were implemented by all early years settings.

There are seven areas of learning and development.

Three Prime Areas (laying the foundations for future learning)

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

Four Specific Areas (provide experiences and opportunities to broaden knowledge and skills)

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

The Characteristics of Effective Learning

All children learn differently. However to be a successful learner certain characteristics need to be encouraged. Since the implementation of the new EYFS in September 2013 it is now a statutory requirement to plan activities that encourage the following characteristics.

- **Active Learning** – are the children: enthusiastic, motivated, attentive, energetic? Do the children have a can do attitude and have a willingness to work and achieve?
- **Playing and Exploring** – are the children: curious, willing to explore, engaged, interested, imaginative, willing to be challenged, able to work as part of the team?
- **Creating and Thinking Critically** – can the children: think of their own ideas, plan how they wish to complete a task, adapt their work, predict, modify, estimate, plan?

Play

- Young children are active learners. They use all of their senses to build concepts and ideas from their experiences.
- The majority of planned activities within the classroom are based upon play.
- All of the Early Learning Goals can be achieved via activities based on play.