

# Early Years Foundation Stage

## Curriculum Statement



### Intent

At East Markham Primary School, the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is based on our school's vision that all children will be happy, successful learners who believe in themselves and achieve their full potential. We intend to achieve this through teaching, modelling, and celebrating the school's values of *respect, resilience, courage, passion, and empathy*.

We place great value on the development of children as individuals and providing them with the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to prepare them for the challenges in Key Stage One and beyond. Our aim in the EYFS is to build strong foundations rooted in academic success as well as developing the whole child, so that they go on to be active citizens of society and happy, curious, life-long learners.

Our engaging curriculum is therefore designed so that the children can gain the knowledge, skills and understanding they require for success. This will be achieved by promoting independence and embedding the right habits for learning through the characteristics of effective learning – play and exploration, active learning, and creative and critical thinking.

Additionally, the enabling environment, carefully selected resources, and planned for learning opportunities will be used to teach and expose the children to the diversity that is representative of modern-day society. It will also provide them with opportunities to build on prior knowledge and skills and apply these in various contexts.

### Implementation

All children in the EYFS learn through a balance of child-initiated and adult-led activities. The timetable is carefully structured so that children have rigorous directed teaching in literacy, maths and phonics everyday with regular opportunities to read and experience high quality texts. These sessions are followed by group work where children work with a member of staff to develop and build on their knowledge and skills.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. The prime areas of learning (personal, social and emotional development, communication and language and physical development) are at the heart of our curriculum alongside the specific areas (literacy, mathematics, expressive arts and design, and understanding the world). We provide a varied and engaging programme of teaching and learning, and our continuous and enhanced provision enables the children to demonstrate the characteristics of effective learning.

Children are provided with plenty of time to engage with each other, explore, and apply their prior learning and experiences through the carefully planned resources in the provision. The curriculum is planned for the inside and outside areas and equal importance is given to learning in both. The curriculum is designed in a cross-curricular way to support all aspects of the children's development.

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum. Children follow the rigorous and highly successful Read, Write, Inc. scheme faithfully so that they meet good outcomes for reading and exposed to a range of texts,

including fiction and non-fiction, through daily story times. Each child has the opportunity to take home a closely match phonics book to support their reading and fluency at home, as well as a 'family book' – a book they can share with an adult which is designed to promote a love of reading.

We use a mastery approach in maths with an emphasis on studying key skills of number, calculation, and shape so that pupils develop deep understanding. Children learn through games and tasks using concrete manipulatives which are then rehearsed and applied to their own learning through the provision.

Our inclusive approach means that all children learn together but we have a range of additional intervention to support children who may not be keeping up with the rate of teaching. Any gaps are identified early, and intervention is put in place immediately to promote a culture of 'keep up', as opposed to 'catch up'.

## **Impact**

The impact of our approach to the curriculum ensures that the children are exposed to high-quality teaching and learning and have the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding. Through this, the children will make good progress and ultimately become happy, successful learners who believe in themselves and achieve their full potential.

Our curriculum will meet the needs of all our children, including our disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs and disabilities. This will be achieved through talking and interacting with the children, looking at their work and observing their learning experiences to analyse gaps and plan for next steps. Every member of staff will use ongoing observational assessment to identify children's starting points and plan experiences which ensure progress. This information will be recorded at three data collection points during each academic year.