

Early Years Education at Moorfield Primary School

At Moorfield Primary School children begin their education at the age of 4 when they join our reception class. Children join us from a variety of nursery settings and continue to follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

This curriculum is organised into 7 areas of learning -

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development
- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

The areas in red are described as the 'prime areas' of learning and it is these key areas that we focus heavily on during the first few months of your child's school life. This means providing them with opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills in small groups and in whole class situations. We also design activities to improve fine motor skills and to develop the control to hold a pencil. Encouraging positive relationships within their peer group through play, stories and focussed sessions means that relationships begin to develop in these early days.

Physical fitness also plays a big part in our school life and our reception children quickly begin to participate in PE sessions to develop gross motor skills and an awareness of a healthy lifestyle. This also helps to advance their self care skills which are also crucial to becoming more independent.

At Moorfield Primary School children access the learning through a mix of play-based activities and teacher led focussed group work.

Through their play we encourage them to experience new things, develop interests and express themselves through music and arts. We choose topics that we believe will inspire the children and foster their love of learning

We want the children to develop good social skills with both adults and their peers. We encourage opportunities to role model how we want children to interact with each other and give them experiences that allow them to resolve conflict and express their thoughts clearly.

We place a high level of importance on developing the children's independence skills and a proportion of the time is spent on learning how to access resources independently. These 'child-initiated' sessions allow the children to create good learning habits that help to prepare them for their future school life. We want them to learn how to persevere and problem solve, by giving them the opportunity to make their own choices about how to work on a task.

Our reception classroom has a large outdoor space and so the children are given the opportunity to access the curriculum both indoors and out. We also have a weekly 'forest school' activity session when the children put on their welly boots and explore the woodland area within the school grounds. This gives them the opportunity to explore using a variety of senses, take risks and develop their sense of awe and wonder of the natural world.

The children are assessed regularly using the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile to ensure that they are making progress across the curriculum. Assessments are mainly done through observations of the children working within the class. We also invite parents to share achievements at home to develop a full picture of how your child is progressing. There is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress throughout the year before a formal report is sent to you at the end of the year.

Our relationships with parents and carers are crucial and these strong links begin during our induction process. We invite parents and carers into school to accompany their children during their first few visits. We do this so that parents understand the expectations and the way that our school runs. Throughout the year we continue to develop open channels of communication between parents and staff. We firmly believe that this helps your child to be more successful at school. By working together, in partnership we believe your child will have a more positive learning experience.

Our EYFS team work very hard to create a stimulating and exciting learning environment for our children to thrive in. Our aim is ensure that they have a happy and positive start to their learning journey and will develop into life long learners.