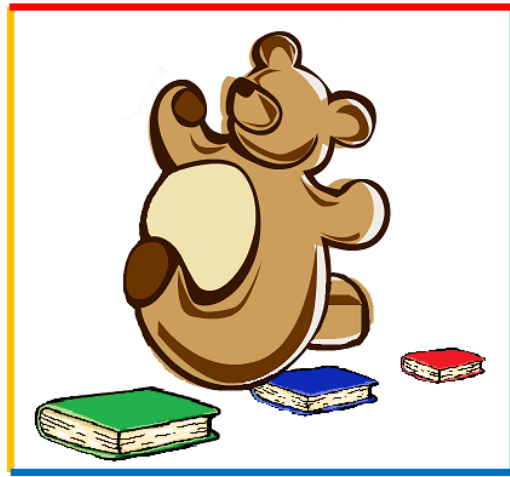


# OUR CURRICULUM STATEMENT



## Stepping Stones

Updated: June 2022

At Stepping Stones Nursery we work closely with parents to keep them informed about their child's progress. A named member of staff is assigned to each individual child to support their development and act as their key point of contact for the parent/carer. This key person will ensure that they are meeting the specific needs of the child and their all-round development.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage**

We implement the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The EYFS is a structure of learning, development and care for children from birth to five years old, effectively a play based curriculum introduced in 2008 by the government which is compulsory for all childcare settings. It is designed to ensure that children learn through play and it continues to apply to all children until the end of their reception year in primary school.

The EYFS was updated in 2012 as a result of a review carried out by Dame Tickell in 2011. The EYFS now sets out seven areas of learning and development for children, three prime areas, which are (1) communication and language, (2) personal, social and emotional development, and (3) physical development and four specific areas, which are (4) literacy, (5) understanding of the world, (6) mathematics and (7) expressive art and design.

We ensure that our key persons work closely with individual children, observing their particular interests and planning activities for them based around those interests which help to promote their learning and development. We have a sophisticated tracking and assessment system in place to make sure that we have a clear understanding of each child's stage of development and how we can best support their further development.

Should you have any questions about any aspects of the EYFS and how we will implement it for your child, please speak to any of our managers who will be pleased to discuss it further.

### **The four guiding principles**

There are four guiding principles in the EYFS, we believe it is important that these principles are used when implementing the seven learning and development areas in the EYFS.

The principles are: -

1. Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
2. Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
3. Children learn and develop well in enabling environments with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.
4. The importance of learning and development. Children develop and learn at different rates.

## **Our EYFS Curriculum Statement**

### **Intent**

At Stepping Stones Nursery we believe that all children deserve an education rich in wonder and memorable experiences that allows children's natural creativity and curiosity to flourish, alongside the purposeful acquisition of skills and knowledge. We believe that an education that does all of this gives children the best chance to become well-rounded, happy individuals, ready to succeed in an ever-changing world.

We recognise the importance of giving our children the best possible start to their education by planning and implementing teaching and learning opportunities that supports them in reaching their full potential. We know that our children enter the Nursery with varied life experiences and we aim to plan teaching and learning opportunities accordingly to address this.

The Development Matters document along with the Foundation Stage Early Learning Goals set out expectations for children. Stepping Stones Nursery recognises the crucial role that Early Year's education has to play in providing firm foundations upon which the rest of a child's education is successfully based.

It is our intention to provide, within the context of our Mission Statement, a broadly enriched, rounded and stimulating learning environment where children can work with adults and peers in a climate of mutual respect to develop;

- Confidence in their ability to learn.
- The social skills necessary to learn.
- The emotional capabilities to enable them to understand their feelings and to solve problems.
- A unique child.

We aim to provide children, with a well-structured, safe, active learning environment both indoors and outdoors. This will enable them to develop the skills, attitudes and understanding that will form the basis of lifelong learning and encourage them to become useful, active members of a diverse and constantly changing society.

### **Implementation**

At Stepping Stones Nursery we meet the welfare requirements laid down in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. We actively safeguard and promote the welfare of all of our children. We recognise that children will learn most effectively when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met and when they have positive relationships with the adults who care for them. We aim to provide a setting that encompasses a safe and stimulating environment where children are able to enjoy learning and grow in confidence that helps them to achieve their fullest potential.

We meet the legal requirements for:

- Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare.
- Providing suitable adults with appropriate qualifications, training, skills and knowledge.
- Maintaining records, policies and procedures for the safe and efficient management of the setting and to meet the needs of the children.

- Planning and organisation to ensure that every child receives an enjoyable and challenging learning and developmental experience tailored to meet their individual needs.

Our emphasis on teaching and learning defines the features of effective teaching and learning throughout the whole Nursery. The combination of a learner centred model and a problem centred model of curriculum design effectively underpin the curriculum at Stepping Stones Nursery. The curriculum is planned and implemented using a cross curricular thematic approach. This approach we feel gives children the opportunities to apply learning from across the curriculum that gives their work practical context and also opportunities to apply knowledge and skills they have learned within “real world” problem solving. Every month, children will cover a new topic or theme of work. This is also shared with Parents along with recommended activities to try at home. Children are given the opportunity to influence and plan the direction of their own learning by identifying, what they already know, understand and would like to know about each new topic. Each topic is then flexibly delivered through a staged approach incorporating an initial engagement to open the children’s imagination in their new topic or theme of learning. This learning then develops through a series of activities that builds skills, knowledge and understanding within that topic of learning. At the end of each topic children are given the opportunity to evaluate their learning and celebrate their achievements. This celebration is often shared with parents.

The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage reflects the three prime areas and four specific areas of learning identified in the Early Learning Goals, all of which are equally valued at Stepping Stones. The experiences our children met through both adult initiated and adult directed activities, child initiated and a problem solving approach to learning, enabling them to develop a number of competences across all areas of learning. The Early Learning Goals are in line with the National Curriculum and provide the basis for planning throughout the Foundation Stage.

Stepping Stones Nursery provides a safe, stimulating outdoor learning environment in order to enhance teaching and learning through engaging, problem solving, investigative and explorative ways. Children have daily opportunities to access the outdoor environment which also enables them to increase their levels of physical activity. Children’s learning is enabled within the outdoor learning environment which is seen as an extension of the classroom within which children are encouraged to use and apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills through outdoor learning opportunities that also engages all children in a positive way with their local, natural environment.

Throughout their time at the Nursery and as part of the learning and teaching process, children will be assessed in relation to their progress towards Development Matters and the Early Learning Goals. These judgements are made on the basis of accumulative observations and in-depth knowledge of the children acquired through ongoing assessment. These ongoing assessments are used to inform planning and next steps in teaching and learning for all children throughout the year. End of year assessments are finalised and summarise each child’s development at that point against the Early Learning Goals and Development Matters.

### **Impact**

With the successful implementation of both an enriched, rounded and balanced curriculum and a well-structured, safe, active and challenging learning environment, both indoors and outdoors, children will be able to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding that enables them to be successful learners.

Children will be actively engaged in learning and their enjoyment of this learning will be apparent to all. All children will have experienced a curriculum that provides, exciting and enriching learning experiences and opportunities for children to learn through educational visits and hands on experiences.

Children will appreciate and understand the world around them, experiencing and learning about different cultures, music, dance, art and history. Children will actively ask questions about the world around them and their learning experiences and they will never fear making a mistake but instead see this as an opportunity to learn.

Children will be able to apply links through their acquired skills within other aspects across the curriculum. Children will also be skilful at problem solving and they will have effectively develop their personal levels of resilience and independent learning skills.

Children will be successful learners and fully prepared for the next stage of their education as they transition from Foundation Stage to School.

We will also aim to help children to make sense of the world around them, to develop tolerance, compassion and an understanding of their rights and the rights of others in an ever evolving world. Children at the end of Foundation stage will have developed essential knowledge and skills required for everyday life and lifelong learning.

Children at Stepping Stones Nursery will be well rounded, happy, inquisitive and successful learners. Together, we can leap to success...