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**“With God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26**

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| **Curriculum Overview and Statement of Intent, Implementation and Impact**  **Early Years Foundation Stage** | | |
| **Safeguarding**  Safeguarding is at the centre of everything we do at St Matthew’s, we aim to ensure that everyone working in our school understands and adheres to their safeguarding responsibilities. We have a duty of care to all staff, pupils and their families. The safety and protection of all children is of paramount importance to all those involved in education. We are committed to inter-agency working to keep children safe. All of our community believe that our setting does provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment, which promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual pupil, whilst paying due regard to the protected characteristics of every child. | | |
| **Equality and Diversity**  As a Church of England Aided Primary School, St. Matthew’s school is rooted in Christian values and TEAM spirit, we aspire to be an innovative and inspiring community where every individual is provided with the opportunity to flourish spiritually, morally, emotionally, physically and intellectually. We are ‘Individuals working to potential with God’.  The school is committed to:   * promoting racial equality, good race relations and challenging racial discrimination. This is reflected in all school policies, procedures, processes and practices. * ensuring that it is a place where everyone, irrespective of their race, colour, ethnic or national origin or their citizenship, feels welcome and valued and able to achieve their full potential. * protecting the rights of all pupils, staff, parents, governors and visitors to the school. * respecting and valuing differences between people. * meeting the diverse needs of pupils. * preparing pupils for life in a multi-ethnic society. * acknowledging the existence of racism and being proactive in tackling and eliminating racial discrimination. | | |
| **Intent**  ***At St Matthew’s Primary school, our school vision is to encourage all children to flourish spiritually, morally, emotionally, physically and intellectually in all aspects of life demonstrating perseverance and resilience; this is emulated across all curriculum areas.***  In EYFS at St Matthew’s, the curriculum is designed to recognise children’s prior learning from previous settings and their experiences at home, provide first hand learning experiences, whilst allowing the children to build resilience, ambition and integrity. Every child is recognised as a unique individual and we celebrate and welcome differences within our school community.  The ability to learn is underpinned by the teaching of basic skills, knowledge, concepts and values. We provide enhancement opportunities to engage learning and believe that our first experiences of school should be happy and positive, enabling us to develop a lifelong love of learning.  Community involvement is an essential part of our curriculum as we celebrate local traditions, learning new skills to enable the children to take an active role in events throughout the year. Throughout their time in EYFS, the children develop a sense of belonging to our school community, ready for transition into year 1 the following academic year. They have the confidence and skills to make decisions and self-evaluate, make connections, and become lifelong learners.  We intend:  • To work in partnership with parents and carers to encourage independent, happy learners who thrive in school and reach their full potential from their various starting points.  • To understand and follow children’s interests and provide opportunities throughout our EYFS curriculum to support learning, consolidate and deepen knowledge and ensure children meet their next steps.    • To create an indoor and outdoor environment which supports learning.  • To prepare children to achieve a Good Level of Development (GLD) and the Early Learning goals at the end of the Foundation Stage and ensure children make at least good progress from their starting points. • To support transition into KS1. | **Implementation**  Throughout EYFS at St Matthew’s, we follow the Early Years Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, updated July 2021, by the DfE. This framework specifies the requirement for learning and development in the Early Years and provides prime and specific areas of learning we must cover in our curriculum. We have a curriculum that is child-centred and that is based upon wow experiences and topics which engage the children. We encourage active learning to ensure the children are motivated and interested. We take time to get to know children’s interests and their likes to support learning.  All areas of the EYFS curriculum are followed and planned for to ensure there is a broad, balanced and progressive learning environment and curriculum. The children will learn new skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate understanding through the seven areas of the EYFS curriculum.  • Personal, Social and Emotional Development  • Physical Development,  • Communication and Language,  • Literacy,  • Mathematics,  • Understanding the World,  • Expressive Arts and Design  These 7 areas are used to plan children’s learning and activities. Planning for this curriculum is designed to be flexible so that children’s unique interests are supported.  During each week, the children work with an adult to complete 1:1 reading sessions and group guided reading sessions (in Reception), as well as an adult led literacy task, an adult led maths task and a range of child-initiated tasks through both the indoor and outdoor provision.  As the children move through the Foundation Stage, there are also planned weekly ‘Challenges’, which the children are encouraged to engage in during their Continuous Provision.  A vital aspect in the development of essential knowledge and skills is the use of Continuous Provision. This means that children are using and developing taught skills throughout the year on a daily basis. Continuous Provision practise and principles begin in EYFS and support children to develop key life skills such as independence, innovation, creativity, enquiry, analysis and problem solving. During the school day, children will have an opportunity to work independently, work collaboratively with their friends and with members of staff. Daily guided activities are also planned to cover different areas of the EYFS curriculum and allow children to develop their next steps in learning. Through observation and discussion, areas of need and next steps are identified for all children to ensure good progress is made.  There are also a range of stimulating and engaging activities which the children can access independently and a variety of opportunities for child-initiated play. In planning and guiding children’s activities we reflect on the different ways that children learn and reflect these in our practise. Staff in the EYFS make regular observations of the children’s learning to ensure their next steps are met. These are collected in each child’s online or paper learning journey. We regularly assess where the children are, using ‘Development Matters’ and then ensure our planning, adult interaction and learning environment; including Continuous Provision, support children to reach their next steps. We will include interventions for groups or individuals if and when necessary.  Children in EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside. Our outdoor areas are used all year round and in all weather conditions. We ensure activities support the Characteristics of Effective Learning to ensure learning takes place. These are:  • Playing and Exploring – children investigate and experience things, and have a go;  • Active Learning – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements;  • Creating and Thinking Critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things.  We have a dedicated time focusing on health and self-care. We share a range of healthy snacks and learn about the importance of a healthy balanced lifestyle to maintain our own wellbeing. All of children perform in a Nativity and participate in trips when possible. They enjoy visits from a vast range of People Who Help Us, such community members including the police, fire service, postal workers, vets, doctors, nurses, their animals and vehicles. To support our wider curriculum, we provide regular opportunities for parents and carers to come into school and work with their child, share their work and celebrate successes. We keep parents informed and we meet regularly with them to ensure children’s transition into school and through the EYFS is happy and allows them to reach their potential with the support needed. This includes transition days, nursery visits, School Readiness sessions, stay and play sessions, parent workshops, Learning journals, reports and parent consultations as well as more frequent informal communication to suit individual families. | **Impact**  At St Matthew’s we strive to ensure that our children’s progress across the EYFS curriculum is good from their varied starting points. We also strive for children to achieve a Good Level of Development and many of the Early Learning Goals at the end of Reception, and to be as close as possible to National Expectations.  Evidence in children’s Learning Journals and Learning journals app, support all areas of the EYFS curriculum.  The impact of our curriculum is measured by assessment procedures which allow us to measure outcomes against all schools nationally.  We measure the percentage of pupils achieving age related expectations and that are on track for GLD throughout the academic year and put supportive interventions in place if and when needed.  Class teachers use observations to make formative assessments which inform future planning and ensure that all children build on their current knowledge and skills at a good pace. Summative assessment compares children attainment to age related expectations using month bands in Development Matters. This is regularly tracked to ensure rates of progress are at least good for all children, including vulnerable groups such as those with SEND, EAL, disadvantaged or summer born children.  Our assessment judgements have been moderated both in school and externally with local schools and others in our trust. We also partake in local authority moderation which has validated our school judgements. |

