

The Early Years Foundation Stage at St John Vianney

Our Intent

At St John Vianney's, our EYFS curriculum enables the children to put into practise our whole-school Mission Statement: ***Seeking Growth together through Jesus***. We strive to provide an inclusive environment so all children, regardless of their social background, thrive and grow to achieve the best that they possibly can.

In our Nursery and Reception classes, we invest time into nurturing our children, so that they flourish with faith in God and love at the centre of their being. We accomplish this by fostering positive relationships and creating a safe, communication-friendly environment.

We provide a carefully tailored curriculum that is both relevant and purposeful to our children. Working closely with our parents allows us to gain a deeper understanding of the cultural capital that permeates throughout our school and wider community of Blackpool.

The EYFS Statutory framework is used, and its principles promoted by our Early Years team in order for us to support the learning, development and care of the children in our setting.

We are passionate about providing all the tools necessary to help our children grow into resilient, investigative, caring students who have a life-long love of learning. These early stages of a child's education build the strong foundations on which the rest of their lives will stand. At St John Vianney, we truly believe that what we have to offer will give our children the best start in their journey into life.

Our Main Goals

- *To develop a language rich environment with oracy as the start of our school's pedagogy in the early years; not as a discrete lesson, but rather as a thread running through daily school life.*
- *We aim for all our children to learn to listen attentively and speak clearly and confidently.*
- *Language and vocabulary development is an area of key importance for our children, which impacts on all wider subjects and is why we believe oracy to be imperative and fundamental to achieve success.*
- *Foster in each child a pleasure for reading and writing.*
- *Work in close partnership with our families throughout the year to support the children's learning.*
- *Underpin the three Characteristics of Effective Learning (playing and exploring; active learning; creative and critical thinking).*
- *Develop effective metacognition skills that allow the children to understand the process of how they learn.*

Our Implementation

At the forefront of our purpose, is to tailor the curriculum so that the primary focus is the human dignity of the child. At SJV, we achieve this through having Christ at the focus of our playing, learning and thinking.

We endeavour to implement the three characteristics of effective learning in all our areas of provision because we firmly believe that children need the freedom to make their own choices; the security of clear boundaries to keep them safe and the skills to become metacognitive learners.

We have in place a long-term curriculum that begins in Nursery and progresses through to Reception. This is adapted throughout the year, as we become more familiar with the specific needs of our current children.

Having a close relationship with our parents and families is of paramount important to us, which begins from the moment the child is offered a place in our setting. We have thorough transition

processes in place; including meetings, home visits, settling-in sessions and staggered entry to Reception. We pride ourselves on our open-door policy, the Team Leader greets parents and their children every morning and parents are actively encouraged to have an open dialogue with their child's class teachers. To ensure that parents are kept up-to-date with their child's current experiences, we use the learning platforms of 'Showbie' and 'Teams'. We also celebrate our daily achievements by sharing them on Twitter.

Through our topics, we strive to ensure children know about those who work in our local community. We invite various people into our setting to talk to the children about their role in Blackpool and how they help people.

As a whole-school priority, we establish firm groundings for an oracy-rich curriculum through having quality interactions with our children at every opportunity. We use strategies that all staff have learnt through continued professional development training in ELKLAN, NELI and WELCOM. As part of everyday teaching, we implement the use of talking partners and actively encourage eye contact and key listening skills at all times.

As an English hub school, we are passionate about the teaching of early reading and our ultimate goal is to ensure that children share our enthusiasm for books. As such, we provide a literacy-rich environment where reading is given the highest priority. As soon as children walk into the classroom in the morning, they are invited to find their name and vote for their favourite story to hear at the end of the day. As a team, we are rigorous in selecting and providing home reading books that are accurately matched to the child's current reading level. In addition to this, we have a 'favourite 10' selection of books, which children take home as their 'reading for pleasure' book. Children always have access to an inviting reading area in the different learning zones in our setting. Children are also enticed towards role-playing the teacher at our distinctive phonics table.

The Impact

Our ultimate goal is that the children of St John Vianney end their early years journey as all-rounded individuals, with an emerging sense of curiosity about their faith. This enables our children to understand that there is always a place for them in God's world, where they will be loved, nurtured and cared for.

At SJV, we have children who arrive from a variety of different starting points and we strive to ensure that each and every single child makes a good level of development in all 17 Early Learning Goals.

Our aim is that every single child will be equipped with the skills learnt in the prime areas of learning of Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Physical Development and Communication and Language. We firmly uphold that this will lay the foundations for children's success in all other areas of learning and in their journey of life.

We hope that children will continue their love of learning and that their enquiring minds will continue to give them a thirst for knowledge as they approach their next stage.

