



Oldbury Park Primary Early Years Rationale

At Oldbury Park, we acknowledge the statement that....

“Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child’s experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is the vital component for life-long wellbeing. Good parenting and high-quality learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up”.

At Oldbury Park we offer an early years curriculum rich in wonder and memorable experiences. We believe it is essential to provide a nurturing environment where each, unique child can experience emotional warmth, with consistent praise, boundaries and encouragement. Leading to each child feeling valued, motivated and confident to meet new challenges and reach their full potential.

Intent:

Within the EYFS, we understand that young children are powerful learners and set a broad range of learning opportunities to fulfil their curiosities. As they explore and learn, children are naturally drawn to play, which is why it is at the heart of our EYFS curriculum. Developing each unique child’s interests are all features of our daily practise that supports wellbeing, and we provide a Thrive Approach to support our pupil’s self-regulation skills. We believe that the appropriate mix of adult led, adult-initiated and child- initiated play ensures the best outcomes for our pupils. Warm and positive relationships are fostered through quality time spent with our children and through developing strong relationships with Parents/Carers. Our staff have high expectations for all children and work hard to help them develop the skills and knowledge to become respectful, independent, resilient and creative learners.

Implementation:

At Oldbury Park 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, grow in confidence and supports them to reach their fullest potential.

At Oldbury Park, we believe that the Early Years are the most important for providing the fundamental building blocks to all aspects of learning. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum across all seven areas of the Early Years and believe that the four principles are all equally important; the ***unique child***, building ***positive relationships*** with each unique child and providing the ***enabling environments*** for their ***learning and development*** to flourish.

Play underpins our curriculum in the EYFS. Through play, children develop language skills, their ability to regulate and understand emotions, creativity and social and intellectual skills. For most children their play is natural and spontaneous although some children may need extra support from adults. Play takes place both indoors and outdoors and it is in these different environments that children explore and discover their immediate world. It is through play that they practise new ideas and skills, they take risks, show imagination solve problems on their own or with others.

The role that adults play is crucial. Adults will strive to:

- Provide time, space and appropriate resources.
- Observe play and join in when invited, watching and listening before intervening.
- Value play and provide safe but challenging environments that support and extend learning and development.
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In our early years provision, we embrace the Central Academy Trust focus on Oracy. We prioritise and create a 'language rich' environment through the use of songs, nursery rhymes, stories and providing time for adult/child and peer to peer interaction. We understand high quality adult/child interactions are essential, as is encouraging home learning and the quality of parent/child interactions through activities and reading at home. Every interaction allows children to flourish and gather words at pace in order to become confident communicators ready for their next stage of learning.

It is during these Early Years that children develop the skills to recognise numbers, count objects, read and write letter sounds and use these to blend them together to read and write simple words. Reading is shared in all aspects of the curriculum, with books being a central point of learning. In order to develop pupils' fluency, confidence and enjoyment in reading, we ensure we have a rigorous and sequential approach to the reading curriculum. This begins in EYFS and remains a priority throughout the school.

Inclusion:

At Oldbury Park Primary, our early years curriculum and pedagogy is designed to be accessible for children of all abilities and backgrounds. Including:

- Children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)
- Children who have English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Children who are working at Greater Depth (GD)
- Children who are eligible for Pupil Premium Funding (PP)

Personalised planning, scaffolds and supports will be put in place to ensure all children can access the curriculum. Equipment and resources will be expertly utilised to allow all pupils to achieve the best of their ability and be happy. Provision for these vulnerable groups is closely monitored by the EYFS leader, SLT and Governors.

Intended Impact

The impact of our early years curriculum is measured by how effectively it helps our pupils develop into well rounded individuals who embody our values and carry with them the knowledge, skills and attitudes which will make them lifelong learners and valuable future citizens.

We endeavour for pupils to be Key Stage 1 ready and have our school values embedded by the time they leave Reception, preparing them for their future

A child in the Early Years Foundation Stage at Oldbury Park is beginning to:

- Have a love of learning and enjoys a challenge.
- Show respect for themselves and others, have good manners and follows rules.
- Be an independent learner who perseveres and is resilient.
- Have good relationships with adults and peers and co-operate as part of a team.
- Have a sense of wellbeing and lead a safe, fulfilling and healthy life.
- Be a motivated, confident, determined and ambitious individual
- Be a good communicator.
- Be responsible and respectful to the environment and to property.
- Be tolerant and challenge stereotypes and be morally and spiritually aware.
- Have secure values and beliefs and have a strong sense of self.
- Know how learning fits in to the real world and be prepared for the challenge of society.

Our curriculum review is on-going and the curriculum rationale is reviewed annually to ensure relevance and to ensure the voices of our pupils, parents, staff and governors are heard.