

Castle Hill St Philip's CE Primary



Early Years Policy

Intent

At Castle Hill St Philp's we aim to encourage every child to develop a positive attitude to both school and learning, through the use of praise, encouragement and celebration of their work. We believe that all children should receive the very best educational experiences, allowing them to fulfil their unique human potential, thus providing them with the essential knowledge that they need for their future success. At Castle Hill St Philip's we believe that great emphasis should be placed on children's language development. We recognise the impact that poor communication skills can have on a child's learning in all curriculum areas (especially reading and writing), and upon their interaction with others. Speech and language skills are fundamental to a child's development.

This approach is supported through the implementation of the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage Learning and Development requirements and the Characteristics of Effective Learning. The EYFS learning and development requirement comprises of seven areas of learning and development and the educational programmes (see below)

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The development level that children are expected to attain by the end of the EYFS is defined by the early learning goals (ELGs). The ELGs are;

Communication and Language

- ELG: Listening, attention and Understanding
- ELG: Speaking

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- ELG: Self-Regulation
- ELG: Managing Self
- ELG: Building Relationships

Physical Development

- ELG: Gross Motor Skills
- ELG: Fine Motor Skills

Literacy

- ELG: Comprehension
- ELG: Word Reading
- ELG: Writing

Mathematics

- ELG: Number
- ELG: Numerical Patterns

Understanding the World

- ELG: Past and Present
- ELG: People, Culture and Communities
- ELG: The Natural World

Expressive Arts and Design

- ELG: Creating with Materials
- ELG: Being Imaginative and Expressive

As the children at Castle Hill St Philip's begin their learning journey, a large emphasis is placed on teaching early reading and systematic synthetic phonics. The focus is on both developing word recognition and developing the children's language comprehension at the early stages.

Implementation

At Castle Hill St Philip's, we believe that children benefit from engaging first hand experiences and activities, through continuous and enhanced provision both indoor and outdoor. These activities are well matched to the children's needs and are carefully supported by adult interactions, when necessary.

To help children to develop crucial speech and language skills, we ensure that children experience a language rich environment which enables them to acquire the confidence to express themselves in a range of situations.

At Castle Hill St Philip's, the children follow the Monster Phonics phonic programme, which is taught daily. Phonically regular texts are provided at these early stages so that children have the opportunity to practise and apply their phonic knowledge and skills and their knowledge of common exception words and high frequency words. Teachers plan sessions, which also

involve the teacher reading good quality and engaging texts to the children. We believe that reading is not only an important life skill and a way of learning new information, but is also a great source of pleasure. Therefore, many different opportunities are planned to develop both the children's reading skills and their enjoyment of reading across the curriculum.

At Castle Hill St Philip's, we believe that play and practical exploration are key to both developing a strong conceptual understanding in maths and in engaging children in the enjoyment of maths. Concepts are introduced through concrete representations, and practise and consolidation play a central role in developing children's understanding and confidence.

At Castle Hill St Philip's, staff aim to develop warm, trusting relationships with all children, interacting well with them and taking time to listen to their views and opinions. The Christian values are interwoven into all aspects of the curriculum and school life, facilitating children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Children learn about the importance of having a healthy body and mind through direct teaching experiences.

At Castle Hill St Philip's we recognise that parents are children's first and most enduring educators. We endeavour to work closely with parents as we recognise that when parents and practitioners work together, the results have a positive impact on children's development and learning. We work closely with parents' through:

- The reception class teacher and pastoral manager will arrange a 'Care and Share' session before each child starts school so that time can be spent getting to know the child in a setting familiar to the child. This is in addition to nursery visits and Inspire sessions.
- Reading workshops (a reading workshop is held in the Autumn Term)
- Formal Parents' Evenings which are held twice a year, at which the teacher and child's 'key person' discuss the child's progress.
- Parents receiving a report on their child's attainment and progress at the end of each school year.
- A range of activities throughout the year which encourage collaboration between the children, parents and school: Class assemblies, Collective Worship and Sports Days, Stay and Play sessions etc.
- Parents are invited to join 'Tapestry', the online tracking system. Parents can view their child's learning journey online and can contribute to their child's learning journey by sending online postcards to celebrate their child's learning at home.

Impact

At Castle Hill St Philip's, we recognise the unique needs of each child and support them in reaching their human potential. We have a supportive ethos and our approaches support the children in developing their collaborative and independent skills, as well as empathy and the need to recognise the achievement of others. The impact of our Early Years curriculum is measured in the experiences, confidence and competence of our children across the seven areas of learning. We ensure children receive the experiences they require, both within and

beyond the curriculum, to develop their skills and knowledge and become confident, independent learners who are ready to move on to accessing the National Curriculum, if applicable.

Progress in Early Years is a major strength, as the school successfully tackles the many gaps in children's learning, particularly in language and communication skills. Children at Castle Hill St Philip's experience a broad, relevant and challenging curriculum that addresses their needs and leads to children achieving well and making good progress.

More information about the revised Early Years Foundation Stage can be found on the Department for Education website by using the following link.

- <https://www.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stage>