



Ark Priory Primary Academy

EYFS Mission Statement

Intent

The intent of the EYFS at Ark Priory is to give every child, regardless of their background the very best start in life, embracing the community in which we are located. Children's time in the EYFS sets them up for future success both in and outside of School. We recognise that children develop quickly in the Early Years and that a child's experiences between birth and age 5 have a major impact on future life chances. We intend to support each individual pupil to make progress from their individual starting points and prepare them for their next stage in education and beyond. We intend for our pupils to have big ambitions and high expectations of themselves with a thirst for new experiences, exploration and knowledge with no limits to their curiosity.

Implementation

We follow the Statutory Framework published in 2014 by the DfE. This framework is used in conjunction with our Early Excellence Assessment Tracker System (EExAT). Our curriculum is formed using core texts which are linked with our termly topics as a basis for all planning which uses assessment to inform high quality teaching that excites and engages children. Our core texts are introduced using an engaging, real life hook. The texts are of high quality and are purposefully chosen to provide a level of challenge and to promote high quality language acquisition and pleasure for reading. Rich experiences including off site visits and visitors to school link with the texts to promote an awareness of the real world around us. This provides all children with a shared experience through which language, knowledge and skills are developed. Role play is used as a valuable tool to enhance our curriculum and develop key language skills.

Our Practitioners have a strong understanding of child development theory and Early Years Pedagogy which means that that they know how to support our children as they develop their skills and knowledge in all areas of learning and stages of development. Children are supported through a balanced approach of adult led and child initiated activities that are appropriate to each child's age and stage of development. Our use of observational assessment and EExAT system ensures that the activities that are provided suit children's needs, interests and abilities. Our staff receive regular, high quality training to ensure that their interactions with the children reflect current best practice, are valuable and support each individual child to move their learning forward. High quality questioning is used to check understanding and address misconceptions. Practitioners act as role models, modelling development of self regulation social skills, speaking and listening skills.

We implement Phonics, Literacy and Maths teaching daily. Phonics teaching follows our RWI programme. Literacy skills are taught from our core texts with a focus on language acquisition and development through text imitation and innovation. We follow the Maths Mastery programme from our daily sessions which are carefully planned to incorporate concrete and pictorial resources enabling children to build on prior learning and real life experiences across the termly topics. We intend for our children to become confident mathematicians and readers. We implement a thirst and love of learning by carefully planning a sequence of activities alongside our continuous and enhanced provision that is to set up both inside and outside providing meaningful learning experiences and develop each child's characteristics of learning. Our environment and interactions that take place in it are stimulating and develop inquisitive, independent and resilient lifelong learners who strive to challenge themselves during child led exploration. Our provision supports children to develop key life skills such as independence, reflection, creativity, enquiry, innovation, critical thinking and problem solving.

We regularly share our children's learning with parents and careers to build supportive, positive relationships between home and school. We do this through EExAT, Parent workshops, home visits, regular open class sessions, use of the EasyPeasy App, GSGS workshops and weekly home learning activities that promote high quality interactions and develop the home learning environment.

Impact

We endeavour to ensure that our children receive the best start in life and their education. Our children show high levels of fascination and engagement amongst themselves and our school community. We have regular feedback sessions with teachers to instil outstanding teaching and learning. Our coaching and development of practitioners ensures that our Children gain knowledge and skills that are required for the next stage of their development and beyond. The impact of our curriculum is measured by our assessment procedures which allow us to record and measure outcomes across the Ark Network and nationally. The impact is also measured by how effectively it helps our pupils to develop into well rounded citizens who embody our schools values and carry with them the knowledge, skills and attitudes that make them successful lifelong learners who continue to pursue a career or university of their choice.