



## EARLY YEARS POLICY

### RATIONALE

Children entering school will already have had a variety of learning experiences. At Milecastle Primary School we aim to provide a learning environment of the highest quality which will reflect both children's needs and achievements. Children will experience a range of learning experiences which will enable each individual to develop and make progress.

### AIMS

Education for Reception pupils is based on the Early Learning Goals of the Foundation Stage Curriculum. Literacy and numeracy are planned with reference to the National Strategies and the Early Learning Goals. Through these planned experiences we aim:

- to develop personal, co-operative and social skills in small group, classroom and school situations;
- to develop competence in speaking, listening, reading and writing;
- to develop mathematical understanding and provide the foundation for number, measurement, pattern, shape and space;
- to provide opportunities for problem solving, making decisions, experimenting, predicting, planning and questioning in a variety of contexts;
- to explore the environment and people and places which have significance in their lives;
- to develop physical control, awareness of space and manipulative skills in indoor and outdoor environments;
- to develop the children's imaginations and their ability to communicate and express ideas through art, music, dance and drama.

## **GUIDELINES**

1. Planning is based on the areas of learning in the Foundation Stage Curriculum. It reflects the knowledge, skills and attitudes that children need to acquire to achieve their Early Learning Goals.
2. All children will feel secure, valued and able to share structured experiences in groups, as individuals or in whole class situations with a teacher and/or nursery nurse.
3. The indoor and outdoor learning environment will be well-planned, organised and resourced to provide rich and stimulating experiences.
4. The children will be gradually integrated into whole school setting e.g. acts of worship, lunchtimes and playtimes, to ensure confidence.
5. Parents will be kept informed about the curriculum and their child's progress through curriculum meetings, consultation evenings and informal discussions and invited into the classroom setting to support learning.
6. Assessment will be a continual process based on observation and assessment of specific skills and knowledge by practitioners. It will inform planning and enable children to build on experiences and make progress.
7. The statutory Foundation Profile will be completed and shared with parents/carers.
8. Transition to Y1 will be carefully planned.

## **THE USE OF MOBILE TELEPHONES AND DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

In the Early Years children may have their photographs taken to provide evidence of their achievements. Photographs may be taken during indoor and outdoor play and displayed in class books or Learning Journals. These are accessible for children and parents/carers to look through. Photographs may often feature other children in the background.

Staff, visitors, volunteers and trainees are not permitted to use their own mobile telephones or cameras to take or record images of Reception children for their own records during session times.

Mobile telephones which have inbuilt cameras should be turned off on entry to the building. They must not be carried around in pockets and should be left securely with personal belongings. Visitors may only use their telephones outside the building.

In cases of a personal emergency all personal calls should be directed through the main office. Staff are asked not to make personal calls during their working hours. In urgent cases a call made or accepted if deemed necessary and appropriate if this has been cleared in advance with the headteacher.

### **INCLUSION**

All activities are differentiated to take account of every child's needs. Every effort is made to present activities in such a way that they are equally interesting and accessible to all children no matter what their gender, ethnicity or impairment.

### **CONCLUSION**

The implementation of this policy will ensure that each child at Milecastle will make a positive start to school life which will provide a firm foundation for future development and learning.

Policy implemented: March 2003

Policy reviewed: April 2007, October 2012