



Curriculum Intent

Ashfield Nursery provides firm foundations that are building the future for each individual and the community that it serves. The curriculum develops and reflects our core values of happiness, respect, patience, honesty and integrity.

Our school and the curriculum reflect our knowledge and understanding of the community around us, the children, no matter what their individual need or starting point, and the strong relationships we build with our parents, carers and families. With 21 different languages spoken at Ashfield Nursery, the global nature of our pupils and families enables our curriculum to be culturally rich and offers many opportunities to provide a broad knowledge and understanding of the wider world and those within it. Establishing strong communication and language skills is a key focus from the 2-year-old unit throughout Nursery, with an emphasis on promoting speech, language and communication opportunities and including high quality interactions with adults as well as fostering a love of reading.

Ashfield's high quality and purposeful curriculum unites high quality teaching and learning as a result of skilled and experienced staff with a secure, welcoming and inspiring environment within a unique setting. Within the balanced and broad curriculum opportunities that are provided, Ashfield's awareness of the community and the varied life experiences of its pupils is apparent. The children develop excellent physical skills in an outdoor environment that equips them to develop strong motor skills and experiences to explore and learn in a vast and well-resourced outdoor provision.

Community and International links are a true strength at Ashfield and encourage empathy for others and nature through work with a partner school in Gambia, being part of the Seeds For Life project taking us out to the community allotment and learning about growing fruit and vegetables, being healthy not to mention the weekly visits from the 'In Harmony' project musicians who introduce instruments to the children, sing songs and explore sounds.

Our Ashfield community has strong family values which are promoted and nurtured within Nursery and celebrated throughout the year, along with the embedded thread of British values and mutual respect. We are an aspirational community who support one another and encourage curiosity and intrigue, by providing an exciting and challenging curriculum that enables children to flourish and develop into confident global citizens, embarking on a life of inquisitive learning in pursuit of knowledge.

Implementation

Pupils learn through a balance of child-initiated and adult-directed activities. Child initiated learning is valued and encouraged. Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play, and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities.

The timetable is carefully structured to ensure children are getting what they need in a personalised curriculum. Focused group time means that staff can teach new skills and systematically check for understanding, identify and respond to misconceptions quickly and provide real-time verbal feedback which results in a strong impact on the acquisition of new learning.

Children are provided with plenty of time to engage in 'exploration' throughout the variety of experiences carefully planned to engage and challenge them in the provision. The curriculum is planned for the inside and outside classrooms and equal importance is given to learning in both areas. The curriculum is planned in a cross-curricular way to enable all aspects of the children's development including understanding the world and expressive art and design as well as to promote sustained thinking and active learning.

EYFS curriculum is designed to develop the characteristics of effective learning:

- Creating and thinking critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.
- Active learning – children keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy their achievements.
- Playing and exploring – children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'.

These characteristics play a leading role in the teaching and learning that takes place in the curriculum and how to embed knowledge and understanding for all children.

The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. However, 3 areas known as the prime areas are seen as particularly important for igniting curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building children's capacity to learn. The curriculum engages all children and ensures that all children make good progress from their starting points.

Where possible the children's own interests are used by the adults to engage the children in higher level thinking and deeper learning.

Parents are valued as first educators and every effort is made to inform them of the EYFS curriculum whilst providing them with the tools to continue learning at home.

Impact

We want each child to get the best possible start in life and to be ready to thrive within school. At Ashfield Nursery we do this by ensuring ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning process to ensure all children are making at least good progress at their individual rates.

Staff observe pupils and these observations are used to plan next steps.

We use a paper-based learning journey to record assessments which is also shared by parents. Parental contributions are an essential part of these assessments.

The EYFS team meet for regular meetings and receive necessary training linked to the school development plan and other areas of need that are identified as a result of performance management.

Both internally and across our Federation we carry out moderations and attend regular pupil progress meetings to ensure progress is being made for each individual child.

The EYFS leads are committed to raising standards by attending relevant CPD and ensuring each child at Ashfield Nursery has the best start on their life in education.