

Early Years Foundation Stage

Our Lady of Peace Primary and Nursery School

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

What is so special about the Early Years?

Everything!

This is the time in a child's life when they are introduced to the world of learning and the awe and wonder of the world in which we live.

At Our Lady of Peace a child's journey might start in our Nursery or in one of our two Reception classes. Whichever it is, we have planned a curriculum that will inspire, motivate and educate children. Our Early Years team are passionate about supporting and encouraging children to reach their potential, no matter what their starting point is.

This presentation will take you on a journey through the Early Years at our school, See for yourself what sustained, shared learning looks like.....and the fun we have doing it!

The Big Questions

By designing a curriculum based on 'Big questions' we help the children explore, discuss and evaluate the world in which they live. Only once they have a good understanding of themselves and the community in which they live, can they gain an understanding and an appreciation for the wider world.

Advent 1- Who am I?

Advent 2 - What can I do? How can I do it?

Lenten 1- Can we be scientists?

Lenten 2- Where do I live?

Pentecost 1- Can we be detectives? What? Why? When? Where?

Pentecost 2- What do I want to be when I grow up?

Communication, communication, communication!

The ability to communicate effectively with each other is at the heart of all learning in the Early Years and once children have gained these skills they can truly engage with the curriculum and build their learning through exploration, experimentation and shared thinking. The joy of a two-way conversation is something that as an adult we take for granted. The joy of being a teacher in the Early Years is being privy to the wonderful, insightful and often amusing conversations, questions and comments made by the brilliant minds of the very young.



The outdoor learning environment

Early Years teachers have always known the value of outdoor learning. With the advent of Coronavirus it has highlighted to everyone that being outside has a positive impact on both our physical and emotional health. At Our Lady of Peace we enjoy having lots of outdoor spaces and make the most of learning outdoors.



Reading and writing for enjoyment and purpose

A child with good communication skills and a wide vocabulary is ready to learn to read and write. At Our Lady of Peace we use Floppy Phonics, a systematic phonics programme, to teach children to read. We have a 'I can' approach to writing and children are encouraged to write in their play, as well being directed by an adult. For more information on learning to read please see the reading presentation on our website.





What is Talk for Writing?

Talk for Writing is an engaging teaching framework developed by Pie Corbett, supported by Julia Strong. It is powerful because it is based on the principles of how children learn. It enables children to imitate the language they need for a particular topic orally, before reading, analysing, and then writing their own version. Below are some photographs of children designing their own story maps.





White Rose Maths

In Reception we follow the White Rose Maths program. It has proven very successful for our children because of its small step approach and the emphasis on consolidating learning before moving onto something new.

We have found that children have a deeper level understanding of numbers and their relationships with each other. It has enabled the children to become better problem solvers and better at reasoning. It also has a playful approach that the children enjoy and the staff enjoy teaching. The Cebeebies program 'Numberblocks' helps to support maths learning.

