



Early childhood is the foundation on which learners build the rest of their lives. At Pilgrim Academy we greatly value the important role that the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) plays in laying the foundations for future learning and development. We are passionate about children enjoying each day by engaging with and leading their own learning.



Intent – What do we aim to deliver?


Provide a language rich curriculum that offers children a wide range of opportunities, broadening their experiences and giving them chance to try new things.

Have high expectations of every child, supporting all children to achieve their very best in all areas of learning.

Provide a learning environment that helps children to achieve their potential and supports those who need additional help in order to maximise their chances of achieving the Early Learning Goals.

Provide opportunities for children to focus on their own sense of wellbeing and give them the tools they need to be able to regulate their feelings effectively.

We aim to provide motivating, first-hand experiences across all the areas of learning, encouraging children to build resilience, independence, respect for one another and a love of learning. We aim to build on the wealth of knowledge and skills children already have when they start school and provide plenty of new and exciting opportunities to expand each child's knowledge and understanding. In our EYFS, we recognise that all children are unique, and we celebrate and welcome differences within our school community.



Implementation – How do we aim to deliver it?

Children in EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active and thinking critically and creatively and this takes place both indoors and outdoors. Basic principles of self-regulation, movement, cognition and relationships are taught through a mixture of child-led and adult-led activities.

Children make their own decisions about where they learn best and teachers ensure that there are opportunities for all areas of learning both inside and outside. Our learning environment is adaptable in order to reflect children's interests and progression. Learning is reviewed and enhanced through skilled practitioner questioning and resourcing.

Children are provided with opportunities that they have not experienced before and that enhance their learning in school. They are encouraged to take risks and learn from these. Resources are provided to support and encourage challenge.

We plan a range of visits to support children's learning and invite parents, carers and visitors into school to provide the spark for further immersion in a theme or project.

We keep parents informed and meet regularly with them to ensure children's transition into school and throughout the EYFS is successful.



Impact – How will we know when we have delivered it?

The impact of our EYFS curriculum is reflected in having well-rounded, happy and confident children transitioning into Year 1.

We measure progress and children's learning across the year through formative and summative assessment which are based on the teacher's and practitioners' knowledge of the child. Evidence of children's learning is collected through observations, photos and videos both in school and home which are shared with parents and carers.

Each year, we aim to exceed the National and Local Authority data for children achieving a Good Level of Development.