

## **Our Curriculum**

### What is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the stage of education for children from birth to the end of the Reception year. It is based on the recognition that children learn best through play, exploration, discovery and active learning. It is the basis upon which all future learning will be built upon.

Three prime areas of learning and development

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Four specific areas of learning and development

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

At Castle Hill we have a large Early Years provision with a Nursery and two Reception classes. All classes are led by qualified teachers and supported by qualified and experienced staff. The Early Years is housed in a separate building with its own enclosed and secure garden area, where the children can free flow and expand their learning. Most children who attend our Nursery transition to our Reception classes.

The Early Years curriculum allows opportunities for planned and purposeful learning across all areas indoors and outdoors. The curriculum is planned in line with the requirements of the EYFS Statutory Framework 2021 and Development Matters 2021. The curriculum allows learning across the prime and specific areas that deepens knowledge, skill and understanding. Learning is planned with a clear rationale that builds on children's interests, skills and individual next steps.

At the end of the EYFS, the children at Castle Hill:

- Will demonstrate respect, tolerance, perseverance, teamwork and honesty in line with our school values
- Are well equipped with the knowledge and skills they require to enter the next stage of development
- Will have made excellent progress from individual starting points and most will have met the Early Learning Goals
- Will be able to work independently and collaboratively
- Will be able to communicate effectively with each other and adults in school and the wider community
- Will use new skills efficiently and effectively in their learning
- Will have a good understanding of a range of mathematical concepts
- Will have excellent phonic knowledge that supports reading and writing