



# **St Gilbert's R.C. Primary School**

## **Policy: Early Years 2017-18**

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### **OVERVIEW**

The overarching aim of St. Gilbert's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is to help our young children achieve the five Every Child Matters outcomes of staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being.

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To provide a safe and caring environment to enable children to learn how to work, play and co-operate with others.
2. To help children acquire self esteem and a sense of identity, to ensure that they feel included, secure and valued.
3. To help children develop a knowledge and understanding of their environment by providing opportunities to investigate, explore and question.
4. To develop positive attitudes to learning, self motivation, questioning and independence.
5. To enable children to communicate effectively through talking, listening, reading and writing.
6. To develop an awareness of the needs of others and an understanding of what is right and what is wrong.
7. To offer a broad and balanced curriculum, covering all seven areas of learning and development, prime and specific, whilst enabling each child to reach his/her full potential.
8. To develop a positive partnership with parents, recognising their role as co-educators and valuing their knowledge about the development of their child.

### **STRATEGIES**

1. In our teaching, learning and planning we will take account of the four themes of the EYFS Framework: A Unique Child; Positive Relationships; Enabling Environments; Learning and Development.
2. We recognise that every child is a competent learner who can be resilient, capable, confident and self assured. We recognise that children develop in individual ways, at varying rates.
3. We meet the needs of all our children through planning opportunities that build upon and extend children's knowledge, experience and interests, and develop their self-esteem and confidence.
4. We provide a safe and supportive learning environment in which the contribution of all children is valued; using resources which reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping.
5. We monitor children's progress and take action to provide support as necessary.
6. We ensure that we meet the legal requirements for safeguarding and promoting children's welfare, health and safety, by ensuring that we employ suitable people and by ensuring that our premises environment and equipment are safe, secure and suitable.
7. We recognise that parents are children's first and most enduring educators and we value the contribution they make.
8. We make regular assessments of children's learning and we use this information to ensure that future planning reflects identified needs.

### **CONCLUSION**

Through play our children explore and develop learning experiences, which help them make sense of the world. They practise and build up ideas, and learn how to control themselves and understand the need for rules. They have the opportunity to think creatively alongside other children as well as on their own. They communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems.

At St. Gilbert's we recognise that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending the children's development. This begins by observing the children and assessing their interests, development and learning, before planning challenging but achievable activities and experiences to extend the children's learning.