

## Reception

The following is a summary of the underlying structure in place in the Reception classroom. We hope you find this useful.

### Aims of Reception

To provide an atmosphere and environment where every child is secure, valued and confident, regardless of gender, ability, ethnicity or cultural background.

### The Early Years Foundation Stage

Reception forms part of the Early Year Foundation Stage. Within this curriculum there are seven areas of learning with seventeen strands. Each area of learning contains within it a number of strands. The areas of learning are split into the prime areas and the specific areas:

### The Prime Areas

These areas lay down the foundation for all children's learning, ensuring that children are able to relate to others, communicate effectively and engage with their environment. The prime areas are dependent on each other and are universal in that they occur within all cultures and social backgrounds.

The prime areas are:

- **Communication and Language** has three strands; - Listening and Attention, Understanding and Speaking
- **Physical Development** has two strands; Moving and Handling, and Health and Self-care
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** has three strands; Making relationships, Self confidence and Self awareness

### Specific Areas

The specific areas cannot be addressed in isolation from communication and language or personal, social, emotional and physical development since children always experience the world through communication and physical and sensory involvement. The specific areas are:

- **Literacy** which has two strands; Reading and Writing.
- **Maths** has two strands; Number and Shape Space and Measure.
- **Knowledge of the World** has three strands; People and Communities, The World and Technology.
- **Expressive Art and Design** has two strands; Exploring and Using Media and Materials and Being Imaginative.



## Principles of EYFS

There are 4 main themes:

- **A Unique Child** - Unique child refers to the way each child's progress and development is mapped individually.
- **Enabling Environments** - The environment is set up to respond to the needs and interests of the children.
- **Positive Relationships** - Staff and children forge positive relationships to ensure the well being of children a happy child will make progress.
- **Learning and Development** - Learning and development refers to the 7 areas and how these relate to the development of children and the resources/ activities we provide.

These themes are all interlinked.

## Characteristics of Effective Learning

At Windlesham School, we are committed to the following principles to guide what we believe is effective learning:

- Playing and exploring – engagement
- Active learning – motivation
- Creating and thinking critically – thinking

In our planning and setting up of the environment we consider the ways that children learn and ensure there is a balance of activities not only of the different areas of the curriculum but also to ensure levels of engagement, motivation, ways of thinking and meta cognition – thinking about thinking.