



Curriculum Intent and Implementation

At Castleway Nursery School we believe in working in partnership with parents to enable children to reach their full potential, ensuring their school journey begins in a positive way, creating lifelong learners. We support diversity by planning and guiding what our children learn, reflecting on every child's unique, individual learning journey and adjust our practice accordingly. Developing a child's language is the most important job we have as educators. The world belongs to children who can communicate and express their feelings, ideas and needs. For this reason we always offer a language-rich environment to support the children's development of communication and language.

Our curriculum is ambitious and so we treat development matters as the floor not the sky. We believe that every child is on their own unique path and has their own unique next steps, with this in mind all children have a key person, who we ensure know each child extremely well, to guarantee that all children are offered experiences which they can access and meet their developmental needs whilst challenging them. We aim to provide motivating first-hand experiences whilst encouraging children to build resilience, ambition and a lifelong love of learning and preparing the children for the year 1 curriculum. To ensure that we expose our children to the key knowledge and skills to support their progression through education, we offer a balance of child initiated, adult led and planning in the moment learning opportunities in small groups, whole class and 1:1 situations to cover all seven areas of learning.

We support the notion that teaching is a broad term that covers the many ways in which adults help young children learn. We aim to balance what individual children are interested in including their own experiences and following their interests but also drawing their attention to the things which they need to know, to develop their understanding and skills they need to not only make progress now but also skills that will prepare them for their further education. This supports the children's development, builds their confidence as they learn to explore independently and solve problems whilst engaging with others. Children's personal, social and emotional development is crucial for them to lead happy and healthy lives and is fundamental to their cognitive development. Our children are supported to understand their own feelings and show an awareness of the feelings of others whilst being happy and sociable learners, who are willing to try and persevere with new things.

We ensure that all children are given equal opportunities including when attending our vast forest school or using the outdoor learning environment. Children are supported to become curious and excited to learn about their physical world, local community and family's history. We invite important members of the community such as police officers, dentists and firefighters to talk to the children about their work. Our garden and forest school are visited by a wide range of wildlife, hedgehogs, woodpeckers, foxes, frogs, newts, dragonflies and other insects and the children have the opportunity to grow and observe a range of plants, flowers, fruit and vegetables.

As we know, every cohort is different, the curriculum is always under review, as children change from one cohort to the next and their needs change from one term to the next.