

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

At Holy Cross Nursery, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, which supports children's learning, development and well-being from birth to five years. The EYFS begins in Nursery and continues throughout Reception, providing the foundations for children's future learning as they prepare for Key Stage 1.

Our curriculum is designed to help every child learn, develop and reach their full potential. We recognise that every child is unique and develops at their own pace. Through a balance of play, exploration, adult-led activities and meaningful experiences, we encourage children to become confident, curious and independent learners.

The EYFS curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning and development:

The three prime areas:

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

The four specific areas:

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

These areas are closely linked and work together to support the whole child. Through exciting activities, positive relationships and opportunities to explore and discover, children develop important skills and knowledge that prepare them for the next stage of their learning.

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children develop confidence, independence and a positive sense of self. They learn to build friendships, share, take turns, express their feelings and play cooperatively. We encourage kindness, respect and an understanding of others, celebrating different cultures, values and beliefs.

2. Communication and Language

Children develop their speaking, listening and understanding skills, building vocabulary and confidence when communicating with others. Through stories, songs, conversations and targeted interventions such as Concept Cat and WellComm, we support children to develop their language and communication skills.

3. Physical Development

Children develop their fine and gross motor skills through a range of indoor and outdoor activities. They learn to move confidently, develop coordination, understand how to keep their bodies healthy and safe, and enjoy playing and working together.

4. Literacy

Children develop early reading and writing skills through stories, books, mark-making and play-based activities. They begin to recognise sounds, link letters to sounds and develop an interest in reading and writing. We introduce phonics through fun, engaging activities and follow the Read Write Inc. phonics programme to support children's early literacy development.

5. Mathematics

Children develop early mathematical skills through play, exploration and everyday experiences. They learn about numbers, counting, patterns,

shapes, space and measure, while developing their confidence in solving simple practical problems.

6. Understanding the World

Children explore the world around them, developing curiosity through investigating, observing, questioning and experimenting. They learn about nature, their environment, different people, cultures and communities. We celebrate and value all cultures, traditions and beliefs, helping children to develop an understanding, respect and appreciation of the diverse world we live in. Children enjoy discovering new things through a variety of experiences, both indoors and outdoors.

7. Expressive Arts and Design

Children explore a variety of creative materials, tools and techniques. They develop their imagination and creativity through art, music, dance, role play and imaginative activities, learning to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings in different ways.

Snack Time

At Holy Cross Nursery, snack time is an important part of our daily routine. It provides children with an opportunity to enjoy a healthy snack, develop independence and practise important social skills.
Children are encouraged to make healthy choices, try new foods and develop good hygiene habits, including washing their hands before eating.
Snack time is also a lovely opportunity to sit together, chat with friends, develop language skills and learn about sharing and taking turns.
We encourage children to become independent by helping to prepare and tidy away after snack time.
Please ensure that any allergies, food intolerances or special dietary requirements are clearly recorded in your child's 'All About Me' booklet. This helps us to keep your child safe and ensure their individual needs are met. Please let a member of staff know if any details change.

Attendance

At Holy Cross Nursery, we believe that regular attendance is important in helping children feel happy, settled and confident. Attending nursery regularly helps children build friendships, develop secure relationships

with staff and other children, and make the most of the learning opportunities available to them.
Good attendance also helps children establish positive routines, develop independence and build confidence as they learn and grow.
If your child is going to be absent from nursery, please inform the school office as soon as possible. If we have not heard from you and your child is absent, we will contact you by telephone or text message to check that everything is okay.

Why is regular attendance important?

- Establishes good routines: Helps children become familiar with the nursery routine and feel secure and settled.
- Builds friendships: Gives children regular opportunities to develop friendships and positive relationships with staff and their peers.
- Supports learning and development: Ensures children can take part in planned activities, experiences and learning opportunities.
- Builds confidence and independence: Helps children feel comfortable in their surroundings and develop confidence in their own abilities.
- Promotes a sense of belonging: Helps children feel part of our nursery family and develop a positive attitude towards learning.

We understand that children can become unwell and sometimes need time away from nursery. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends regularly whenever they are well enough to do so.

Getting Ready for Nursery

Starting nursery is an exciting milestone in your child's learning journey. We aim to support every child to develop confidence, independence and the skills they need to become successful learners.

Before starting nursery, we encourage parents and carers to support their child in developing the following skills, at a pace appropriate to their individual development:

- **Dressing and undressing:** Developing independence when putting on and taking off coats, shoes and simple items of clothing.

- **Toileting:** Beginning to recognise when they need to use the toilet and developing their personal care skills.
- **Fine motor skills:** Exploring and using pencils, crayons and child-friendly scissors safely and appropriately.
- **Early literacy:** Learning to handle books carefully, turn pages and enjoy sharing stories.

These skills will continue to develop throughout your child's time in nursery. Every child is unique, and our staff will provide encouragement, support and opportunities for children to become increasingly independent.