



**“Creating strong and lasting foundations for learning”**

**Vision and Ethos of Sir James Knott Nursery School**

***“Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child’s experiences between birth and five have a major impact on their future life changes. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high quality learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up”.***

***(Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2017)***

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of the reception year. At Sir James Knott Nursery School we offer 2 year old provision as well as nursery provision.

Early childhood is the foundation on which children build the rest of their lives. At Sir James Knott Nursery School we greatly value the importance that the EYFS plays in laying secure foundations for future learning and development.

However as a staff team we also believe that early childhood is valid in itself as part of life. It is important to view the EYFS as preparation for life and not simply preparation for the next stage of education.

**Ethos**

We believe the Foundation Stage is a unique phase in a child’s life and is crucial to successful future learning. Through this policy we aim to ensure a consistent approach where parents/ carers, teachers and practitioners work together to give children the best possible start.

We aim to support all children to become independent and collaborative learners. We will provide a broad and balanced curriculum that will enable each child to develop personally, socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically, creatively and intellectually to their full potential.

At Sir James Knott Nursery School, we will;

- Provide a happy, safe, stimulating and challenging learning environment in which children can be exposed to the awe and wonder of play, which will support all children on their lifelong journey.

- Provide a broad, balanced, relevant and creative curriculum that will set in place firm foundations for future learning and development in First and Primary Schools and beyond and enable choice and decision making, fostering independence and self-confidence.
- Use and value what each child can do, assessing their individual needs and helping each child to progress.
- Develop excellent relationships with parents and carers to build a strong partnership in supporting their children.
- Provide a caring and inclusive learning environment which is sensitive to the requirements of the individual child including those who have additional needs.

## **Values**

The early years education we offer our children is based on the following principles;

- It builds upon what our children already know and can do;
- It ensures that no child is excluded or disadvantaged;
- It offers a structure for learning that has a range of starting points, content that matches the needs of young children, and opportunities and experiences for learning within the indoor and outdoor learning environments;
- It provides a rich and stimulating environment;
- It acknowledges the importance of an effective working partnership between parents, carers and the setting.

The EYFS is the statutory framework which sets standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure children learn and develop well; and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children are ready for school; and stimulates the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the foundation for good future progress through school and life. All children within Sir James Knott Nursery School 2 year old hub provision and Nursery hub provision work within this framework.

For further guidance, please refer to our Early Years Foundation Stage Policy.