Welcome to The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Welcome to Claires Court EYFS. During your child's time with us, they will embark on many different learning experiences, enabling them to become a confident and resilient learner. This curriculum statement is designed to provide information about what your child will be learning and how they will be learning.

Claires Court Essentials



Claires Court Curriculum

At Claires Court we are fully committed to providing the very best education for your son or daughter. We have worked very hard to develop a curriculum which is individual, current and exciting. For many years now, we have not been restricted by the National Curriculum. Instead we have a Progression of Skills for each subject which is adaptable to each individual pupil. Our teachers differentiate through meaningful and fun activities, which incorporate problem solving, inquiry, critical thinking and risk taking.

As well as having your child's academic needs at the centre of our approach, we pride ourselves on our nurturing learning environment and our exceptional Pastoral Care. Well-being (both mental and physical) is key to feeling secure, confident and building resilience - features which we aim to instil in your child. Our pastoral aims are woven into every aspect of our provision ensuring that whatever your child experiences is with the very best intentions for them.



Leanne Kirby, Head of Juniors (Boys, Girls & Nursery) September 2023

The EYFS curriculum

Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.

The EYFS is about *how* children learn, as well as *what* they learn. Children need opportunities to develop their own play and independent exploration. This is enjoyable and motivating. They also need adults to 'scaffold' their learning by giving them just enough help to achieve something they could not do independently. Helping children to think, discuss and plan ahead is important, like gathering the materials they need to make a den before they start building. These are ways of helping children to develop the characteristics of effective learning. Children learn and develop more from birth to five years old than at any other time in their lives.

When we give every child the best start in their early years, we give them what they need today. We also set them up with every chance of success tomorrow.

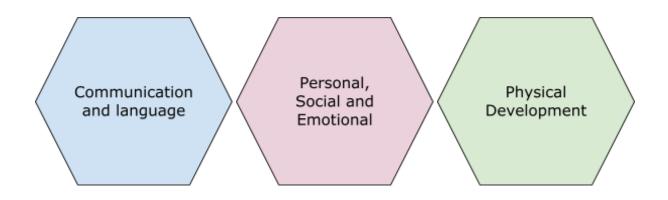
At Claires Court we recognise that it is through both child-led play and play guided by an adult that your child will develop confidence and relationships with others.

The EYFS framework identifies three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

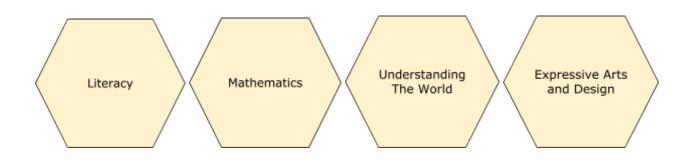
- 1. Creating and thinking critically children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things
- 2. Active learning children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- 3. Playing and exploring children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'

The EYFS framework outlines seven areas of learning and development.

There are **three prime** areas of learning, which are particularly important for your child's development and future learning:



There are **four specific** areas of learning, through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied:



Communication and language

Children are given opportunities to experience a rich language environment, to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves. They speak and listen in a range of situations.

Mathematics

Children will be given the opportunity to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of number, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. Activities will support spatial reasoning skills including shape, space and measure. Emotional Children develop a positive sense of self, forming positive relationships with others, develop social skills and learn how to self regulate. They understand appropriate behaviour in groups and have confidence in their own abilities.

Personal, Social and

Understanding The World

Involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about places, people, technology and the environment.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings. They experience art, music, dance, movement and role play.

Physical

Development Children are provided with opportunities to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, coordination, agility and fine motor skills.

Literacy Children will be given the opportunity to develop their auditory skills as the basis of reading and writing. They will take part in activities to build on their fine motor skills. The seven areas of learning will be taught through various termly topics. However, young children's learning is often driven by their interests so plans will be flexible.

'Babies and young children do not develop in a fixed way. Their development is like a spider's web with many strands, not a straight line. Depth in early learning is much more important than covering lots of things in a superficial way.' Development Matters - Non-statutory curriculum guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Specialist Teaching

At Claires Court we offer the following additional opportunities led by specialist teachers.

MUSIC FRENCH SWIMMING SPORT

How will I know how my child is doing?

Our Early Years' Team will use their professional knowledge to understand your child's level of development. If we have any concerns about your child's progress, we will discuss these with you.

In Nursery there will be:

- A 2 year old progress check. This will happen between the ages of 24 to 36 months
- A settling in report for children moving to our 3 and 4 year old rooms. This will be done after the first half term of them starting
- A leavers report when a child leaves our setting or due to moving onto school

In Reception there will be:

Three parents' evenings and work viewings a year; one each term.

In EYFS we use an online system called Evidence Me which allows us to take photos of your children achieving 'Wow Moments'. We are then able to create a short explanation of the observation and link it to the Early Years Framework. Twice termly, we will then send you these observations via your chosen email(s).

We believe that a good home/school relationship is very important for a child to flourish and so we want you to feel that you can contact your child's class teacher if you have any concerns or that you want to simply 'touch base'.