



Learning and Development in EYFS:

At Boughton Leigh Infant School, we recognise that children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates. We know that children learn best when they develop secure foundations in the prime areas of learning. Staff prioritise communication and language, personal, social and emotional development and physical development, recognising that these areas underpin future success across the curriculum. Our Early Years provision is built upon the four guiding principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage:

A Unique Child

We believe every child is a unique, capable and resilient learner. We value children's individual strengths, interests and experiences and use these to support and extend their learning. High expectations for all children ensure that every child is encouraged to achieve their very best.

Positive Relationships

Children learn best when they feel safe, secure and valued. We build strong, nurturing relationships with children and their families, creating an environment where children feel confident to explore, take risks and develop independence.

Enabling Environments

Our carefully planned indoor and outdoor learning environments support children to explore, investigate and apply their learning independently. Through our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) approach, children benefit from rich outdoor experiences that promote creativity, resilience, problem-solving and physical development.

Learning and Development

Children learn through a balance of direct teaching, adult-guided activities, high-quality continuous provision and purposeful play. Staff carefully observe, assess and respond to children's needs, ensuring learning opportunities build progressively on what children already know and can do.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning

The Characteristics of Effective Learning describe how children learn and are central to our practice.

Playing and Exploring

Children investigate, explore and discover through hands-on experiences. They are encouraged to be curious, ask questions and develop their own ideas.



Active Learning

Children develop concentration, perseverance and resilience as they engage in meaningful activities. They learn to keep trying when challenges arise and take pride in their achievements.

Creating and Thinking Critically

Children are encouraged to think independently, solve problems, make connections and develop their own ideas. Staff support children to reflect on their learning and explore different ways of approaching tasks.

Learning Through Play

Play is fundamental to children's development and learning. Through play, children develop language, social skills, creativity, confidence and independence. They explore ideas, solve problems, practise new skills and make sense of the world around them.

Our curriculum combines child-initiated play with carefully planned adult-led teaching to ensure children develop both the knowledge and skills needed for future success.

Communication and Language

Communication and language development is at the heart of our curriculum. Staff model high-quality language, introduce ambitious vocabulary and create opportunities for meaningful conversation throughout the day. Children are encouraged to listen carefully, express their ideas and develop confidence as communicators.

Developing Early Reading, Writing and Mathematics

Children develop early literacy skills through the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme, which provides a structured and systematic approach to learning to read and write.

Mathematics is taught through a mastery approach, enabling children to develop a secure understanding of number, pattern, shape, measure and problem-solving through practical and engaging experiences.

Assessment and Progress

Assessment is an ongoing part of the learning process. Staff regularly observe children during play and adult-led activities to understand their interests, strengths and next steps in learning.

These observations inform future planning and ensure that learning experiences are carefully matched to children's needs. We work closely with parents and carers, recognising the important role they play in supporting their child's development.

By the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, children are well prepared for the transition to Key Stage 1, having developed the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to continue their learning journey successfully.