



PRE-PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT

Curriculum Policy for Understanding the World in the Early Years Foundation Stage

School Mission Statement:

***“Learning and growing in
the light of the gospel”***

WITHIN THE POLICY:

- Aims and Objectives
- Teaching Strategies
- The World – People and Communities
- Technology

These will link with the developmental matters in the practice guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Plan activities based on first hand experiences that encourage observation, exploration, prediction, problem-solving, critical thinking, decision making and discussion.

Create a stimulating environment that offers a range of activities which will encourage children's interest and curiosity and independent decision making, both indoors and outdoors.

Children should be helped to learn to respect and value all people and to avoid misapprehensions and negative attitudes towards others when they develop their understanding of the world.

Give children accurate information which challenges cultural, racial, social and gender stereotypes.

Make effective use of outdoors, grounds, outdoor classroom, SSSI Site and pond, including the local neighbourhood, ie. Grace Dieu ruins, Thringstone.

Encourage children to tell each other what they have found out, to speculate on future findings or to describe their experiences. This enables them to rehearse and reflect upon their knowledge and to practise new vocabulary.

Technology – to investigate a wide range of Technology and incorporate it into their learning.

STRATEGIES FOR LEARNING (Operating Policy)

Parents are provided with information on planned topics to stimulate discussion. Topics are planned on a termly basis to link in with our main focus.

Staff enable the parents to be involved in the Intended Learning by communicating topic information on a weekly basis.

Individual activities and opportunities for critical thinking and independent investigation are set up on a weekly basis to achieve this learning.

Skills and knowledge are taught in the context of practical activities, for example, learning about the characteristics of liquids and solids by involving children in melting chocolate, making ice or cooking eggs.

Open-ended questions are carefully asked and encouraged, such as “How can we...?” or “What would happen if...?” or “Why does that...?”

To support and model for children in using a range of ICT to include cameras, photocopiers, CD players, tape recorders and programmable toys in addition to computers and interactive whiteboards in the Cygnets' and Swans' classrooms and on an Interactive Whitetable in the department.

THE WORLD

Encourage children to talk about the features of the environment.

Looking at similarities, differences, pattern and change.

Encourage children to talk about features of their own environment.

Technology

Use the computer to complete a simple programme with age appropriate software.

Find out about and identify the uses of everyday technology and use information and communication technology and programmable toys to support their learning.

Provide a range of programmable toys, as well as equipment involving ICT, such as computers and interactive whiteboards in the Cygnets' and Swans' classrooms.

Know how to operate simple equipment by pushing knobs, pulleys and operate real equipment such as cameras.

People and Communities

Enjoy joining in with family customs and routines and special times.

Show an interest in different occupations and ways of life.

Understand about similarities and differences between themselves and others (communities and traditions).

Examples of Topics Covered by Cygnets

- Animals (jungle, farm, zoo, sea creatures, pets)
- Shapes in the environment
- Mini-beasts
- Colours
- Nursery Rhymes
- Water
- Holidays

Examples of Topics covered by Swans

Ourselves and our bodies

Families and our communities

Seasons and weather

Journeys – by road, rail, foot, air, water

Transport – comparing old and new

Growing

The world about us

Festivals – Diwali, Sukkot, Harvest, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Hindu

Water

Senses

Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales

Mini-beasts

(Reviewed PSF & ND August 2016)