

St Paul's CE Primary School



A guide to Curriculum and Assessment in the Foundation Stage

October 2015

The Nursery and Reception classes are known collectively as *The Foundation Stage*. The curriculum and assessment programme for the Foundation stage differs from the rest of the school in a number of ways, reflecting the needs of younger children.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Foundation Stage Curriculum is a statutory across England. The curriculum is centred around seven areas of learning and development, which are all interconnected:

1. communication and language
2. physical development
3. personal, social and emotional development
4. literacy
5. mathematics
6. understanding of the world
7. expressive arts and design

The school develops the curriculum around these seven areas of learning. The school's curriculum is shared through the half-termly newsletters and published on the school's website.

Assessment in the Foundation Stage

Teachers and other staff in the Foundation Stage make on-going assessments of their pupils in every session. Assessments include observation of children, outcomes of focused activities, discussion with children and feedback from experiences at home.

Staff in the Foundation Stage use a nationally approved document, *Development Matters*, to map attainment and track the progress of children.

At the end of the Foundation Stage, when pupils leave the Reception class, the Early Years Profile needs to be completed. This is a summative assessment of a pupil's attainment at the end of the foundation stage.

Pupils who attain the early learning goals for each area of learning are attaining in line with the national expectation. Those who don't attain the early learning goals are attaining below age expectation.

Progress is measured using the attainment bands within the *Development Matters* document.

Future Developments in the Foundation Stage

Summer 2016 will be the final year in which the Early Years Profile is completed.

From September 2016, the Foundation Stage *baseline assessment* will be statutory for pupils starting Reception class. We are currently trialing baseline assessment and will be able to share more detail with you as the year progresses.