



Intent

At Colton, our aim is for children to become confident, resilient, and independent learners, building strong foundations rooted in academic success as well as social, moral and spiritual development (the very beginnings of our 'Curriculum for Life'). We aspire to provide rich, engaging experiences that bring joy to children in their learning, so they are curious to learn even more. Our curriculum is designed to recognise children's prior learning from previous settings and home, and provide first hand experiences. We recognise that all children are unique and therefore our curriculum is adapted each year to follow the children's interests and fascinations. We place great value on the development of children as individuals and provide them with the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to prepare them for the challenges of Key Stage One and beyond.

Implement

Our curriculum has been carefully redesigned to meet the specific needs of the children at Colton. It is exciting, interactive, and purposeful, with opportunities for children to follow their own interests and fascinations. Alongside this, children in the Early Years benefit from cohort specific additional curriculum and educational opportunities, designed, and contextualised specifically for the locality of the school.

All areas of the EYFS curriculum are followed and planned for to ensure there is a broad, balanced, progressive learning environment and curriculum. The children learn new skills, acquire new knowledge and understanding through the seven areas of the EYFS curriculum. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the prime areas, are:

- communication and language;
- physical development; and
- personal, social and emotional development.

We also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- literacy;
- mathematics;
- understanding the world; and
- expressive arts and design.

None of these areas can be delivered in isolation from the others. They are equally important and depend on each other. All areas are delivered through a balance of adult led and child initiated activities.



Implement

Children are provided with plenty of time to engage in 'exploration' throughout the variety of experiences carefully planned to engage and challenge them in the provision. The curriculum is planned for the inside and outside classrooms and equal importance is given to learning in both areas. The curriculum is planned in a cross-curricular way to enable all aspects of the children's development including understanding the world and expressive art and design as well as to promote sustained thinking and active learning.

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum and themes are most often introduced and studied through a text. Children are exposed to a carefully selected variety of texts throughout their time in Early Years. Children follow the rigorous and highly successful Read, Write Inc phonics program so that they meet good outcomes for reading and writing.

We follow the Maths Mastery approach with an emphasis on studying key skills of number, calculation and shape so that pupils develop deep understanding and the acquisition of mathematical language and concepts.

Our inclusive approach means that all children learn together but we have a range of additional intervention and support to enhance and scaffold children who may not be reaching their potential or moving on children who are exceeding age related expectations.

Impact

By the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage, all children will have reached their personal best. Our 'Curriculum for Life' supports achievements in both core and foundation subjects. All children will have experienced a curriculum that provides exciting and enriching learning experiences.

Our young learners will be able to appreciate and understand the world around them by experiencing and learning about different cultures, celebrations, music, dance, art and history. Children will actively ask questions about the world around them and their learning experiences. They will be able to take risks as this is an opportunity to learn.

We also aim to help children to make sense of the world around them, through our school values of kindness, determination and good, honest hard work. Our Early Years children will be successful learners and fully prepared for the next stage of their education as they transition from Early Years Foundation Stage into Key Stage One.

We know that by the end of Early Years at Colton, our children will have developed the essential knowledge and skills required for everyday life and lifelong learning. We believe the children at Colton will be happy, inquisitive and successful learners who have bright futures. A rich diet of balanced learning experiences is undoubtedly the best way to develop happy, curious children.