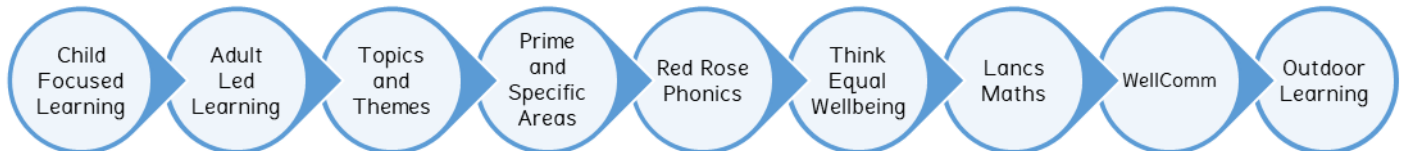




## Stoneygate Curriculum Implementation



At Stoneygate, we provide a broad and balanced EYFS curriculum which is ambitious and challenging, based on developmental milestones.

Our teaching approaches across all areas of the curriculum are flexible and adaptive, dependent upon the child's age and current stage of development. We largely follow a child centred approach, and follow a mixture of planned provision experiences through 'topics and themes' as well as 'In the Moment' planning.

Throughout our setting, children can choose how and where they learn across the 7 areas of the EYFS. We provide children with practical yet playful adult-led learning and support. Staff create environments conducive to conversations and present them with challenges to extend their thinking. Children have the opportunity to learn through planned and immediate responses to in the moment planning, purposeful interactions, small 'carpet sessions' and from one to one support with their Key Worker. Our staff work closely with outside education and healthcare professionals if children need additional support to progress.

Our learning environments, both inside and outside, are reflective of each other and provide a safe place where children can develop, explore and investigate. Both spaces are adapted regularly to meet the developing needs of the children in our care. We aim to ensure that these areas are always stimulating and exciting and that, importantly, they are accessible to all children, regardless of where they are on their learning journey. Our two year old children have their own learning environment where their needs can be met most effectively and our three and four year old children learn together in their own classroom too. To compliment our two classrooms and outdoor space, we also utilise additional spaces to meet the sensory or physical needs of children, deliver specific interventions for identified children or hold special events. We carefully match resources, suited to the children's developmental need, to help foster a sense of independence and self-confidence. Our staff know when to observe, scaffold and extend children's learning as well as build upon in the moment experiences.

There is a strong emphasis on parent partnerships and we offer ongoing support and advice. We work with parents, suggesting home learning opportunities and welcome parental and child input to build on their child's learning experiences. Your child will be allocated a Key Worker when they start nursery, who will introduce themselves to you and be on hand to answer any questions that you may have.

Throughout the year, parent sessions that focus on a particular Area of Learning are held, and we run transition sessions in nursery for pre-school children.

The language development of each child is the core element of our curriculum. Good speaking and listening skills are the foundation for all other areas of learning; particularly in PSED, Literacy (Reading and Writing) and Maths. Nursery school staff model effective communication with children by commenting, asking open questions, modelling key vocabulary and introducing new words using the 'SSTaRR' approach, to enable children to become confident communicators. A combination of carefully considered, language-rich texts, and texts that respond to the children's interests, are used as starting points for our learning themes and topics.

Our curriculum is further enriched with a variety of first-hand experiences and links with the local community, where children can develop an understanding of the world beyond their local community. Children enjoy accessing the forest school area, participating in dance, yoga and well-being sessions, and visiting places within our local area such as the library and the park. We value diversity and give children the foundation for anti-discriminatory values to take to other areas in their lives. Children see staff modelling positive attitudes, speech and behaviours. We use a variety of stories and books to promote and celebrate differences and introduce and reinforce children to the fundamental British Values.

We shape our educational programmes around the three prime areas of the EYFS:

- [Communication and language](#)

We give children opportunities to experience a vocabulary rich language environment. We help develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations. We provide extra support, including the use of WellComm, for those children who need to build confidence or develop their speaking skills.

- [Physical development](#)

Our practitioners provide our children with opportunities to be active and interactive; helping them to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. We teach our children the importance of physical activity, fresh air, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

- [Personal, social and emotional development](#)

We help children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others, through praise and rewards. We encourage children to form positive relationships and develop respect for others, whilst developing social skills, confidence, independence and the ability to begin to better manage their own feelings. We recognise the importance of their behaviours and attitudes, in regards to their peers and towards their learning. Both our 'Think Equal' scheme of books and the fundamental British Values contribute heavily to our PSED offer.

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

- Literacy

Through the teaching of Red Rose Phonics, we encourage our children to link sounds and letters and to begin to develop their early reading and writing skills. Children are given access to a wide range of reading materials including books, poems, and other written materials to ignite their interest

- Mathematics

Underpinned by Lancashire Mathematics Nursery scheme, we provide our children with opportunities to develop their understanding and recognition of numbers, quantities and patterns, including counting, understanding and use of numbers and calculating simple addition and subtraction problems. Opportunities to develop and explore the concepts of shape, space and measure is also facilitated.

- Understanding the world

Children learn to make sense of the world and the community in which we live, and those beyond. We provide opportunities to explore, observe and find out about places, people, cultures, technology and the environment.

- Expressive arts and design

Children are encouraged to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials We provide opportunities and encourage children to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.