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| **Stonehill Nursery School****A personalised curriculum to meet every child’s needs** |
| **Overview** We are passionate about our nursery and each family who enters through our doors. We endeavour to create a memorable, enjoyable, stimulating provision that is rich in langauge and first-hand experiences. Each child is unique and we tailor their journey to ensure they achieve their full potential. We have created an environment with a “home from home feel” that ensures our children feel safe, happy and secure so they are ready to learn. |
| **The Foundations** | **What, How and When** | **Principles and Purpose** |
| **Family links** | * Weekly family learning sessions are tailored to meet the needs of current parents.
* We value and celebrate our community e.g. celebrating festivals, using what the community has to offer, parents sharing skills.
* Home visits, this is our first insight into the children’s lives and home experiences. We value this as it provides a smooth transition for children and parents. We are able to build a trusting relationship with the family. Parents’ views are sought regarding educational visits and family learning sessions. We collect information regarding children’s previous experiences and any support the family feels they may need before starting nursery.
* Flexible hours for parents who work or have family needs are offered.
* Regular communications share the current learning with our families.
* Regular open evenings allow us to celebrate the learning and provide an opportunity for parents to ask questions and build relationships with our staff,
 | “Family comes first”, this is a statement that we uphold. We work hard to engage our families in their children’s learning. We develop strong relationships with all our families, establishing mutual trust through effective communication and the provision of a welcoming nursery environment.  |
| **Personalised** | * Enjoyment runs throughout the curriculum – we endeavour to instil in the children a love of learning.
* Staff conversations – these happen regularly where we discuss each child individually and plan their next steps and appropriate interventions and challenges.
* Our curriculum is well planned however our skilled staff are able to respond in the moment to address individual interests, needs and next steps.
* Group time sessions allow the staff to plan to meet the needs of the children in their group.
* Characteristics of effective learning is our driver – we enable the children to develop a thirst for learning through exciting first-hand experiences linked to their centres of interest.
* Our ethos with regard to children with additional needs/SEND is to embrace any challenges to our environment or curriculum delivery in order to ensure that they are included in all aspects of nursery life. We provide high quality teaching and learning, supported by targeted interventions where appropriate. We liaise with external agencies as required. We have comprehensive systems in place for identifying, monitoring and assessing individual needs. Our SENCO liaises with us on a weekly basis to set targets and plan intervention work. These are shared with parents and reviewed each term.
* EAL – Bilingual teaching staff are able to communicate in some home languages to make children feel safe and secure. Visual timetables, pictures and Makaton are used to support children accessing the curriculum
* The wellbeing of our children is a priority, as is establishing a smooth transition between all phases in foundation stage (twos into FS1 and transition from FS1 to FS2)
 | Stonehill nursery is fortunate to have an established, qualified, multi-skilled staff team with some members being bilingual. All staff have an in-depth knowledge of the children in our nursery and a sound understanding of their learning styles and interests. The team access relevant training through courses, peer mentoring and in-house training. We have strong links with Dale Community Primary School. |
| **Environment** | * We provide long, uninterrupted periods of play to give the children opportunities as part of a large group, alongside others, by themselves and one to one with an adult.
* We create a stimulating environment that adapts to the children’s centres of interest and spurs curiosity.
* We create communication friendly spaces both indoor and outdoor.
* We use objects that may spark interest for the children to talk about and have reduced the number of plastic toys in the setting.
* A love of reading is embraced by our nursery. Our curriculum is driven by core, quality texts that link to the children’s interests. These are selected for their rich vocabulary and potential to extend children’s ideas and experiences through play. For each core text, the vocabulary (expected and advanced) and concepts are planned and modelled.
* Language rich opportunities are created by our highly skilled staff team to enable the children to become confident communicators.
* ELKLAN and HANEN strategies are in place across the nursery.
* Opened ended learning experiences are provided which create opportunities for the children to develop their critical thinking skills and creativity.
* Outdoor learning is valued at Stonehill Nursery School. Children have daily access in all weathers to a stimulating outdoor environment. Our Forest School enhances provision for our children.
 | Our aim is to provide an inclusive learning environment that gives children the opportunity to flourish. We endeavour to close the achievement gap by providing a rich language and open-ended curriculum. By doing this we create the opportunities for children to take control of their own learning, be decision makers and set their own challenges. We allow them to be curious about the world around them, encouraging them to see the world in a different way.  |
| **Experiences** | * We plan visits within the local community to enrich the learning offered in school, creating opportunities for memorable and stimulating experiences for our children e.g. trips to the local shop, posting letters, family picnics, visits to the library and using local business.
* We share key experiences with Dale Community Primary School e.g. experiencing the awe and wonder of Christmas lights and decorations within school, Pantomime and special events.
* Hands on experiences provide enrichment e.g. Living Eggs in school, pets brought into school and trips to see local businesses in operation.
* Local members of the community sharing their skills with the children
* Links with external agencies are in place to give parents opportunities and access to other professionals that would not otherwise be easily accessible e.g. Health Visitor drop in sessions
 | We pride ourselves in providing opportunities for both our children and their families. We acknowledge parents as partners in their child’s learning journey.  |
| **Celebration** | * Staff are skilled in recognising and celebrating the achievements of individuals, not just academically but also in their personal achievements e.g. toilet training, taking risks and relationship building with others.
* Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education is a strength of our curriculum delivery at Stonehill. We ensure that children develop a sense of self, awareness or others and are prepared for life in modern Britain but whilst celebrating their own uniqueness and culture.
* Group times at Stonehill enable the children to experience being a member of a group.
* We celebrate children’s achievement by displaying their learning for all to see. Each piece of work is celebrated so children value their work and feel a sense of pride.
* Learning journeys are highly personalised and reflect each child’s unique experience within nursery. The children have a role in updating these alongside the adult.
 | We are proud of our children, recognise their individual achievements and want them to learn to celebrate their learning. We provide opportunities for the children to reflect on their efforts and acknowledge their mastery of skills and new learning.  |