

## **An Introduction to the Early Years Curriculum**

In our Early Years Phase at Hordle School, we aim to provide pupils with the foundational knowledge and skills they need to succeed as they embark on their learning journey.

***“No job is more important than working with children in the early years,”***

### ***Development Matters 2023.***

This statement supports why, as a school, we ensure we have the highest expectations of staff, pupils and the learning environment across our Early Years settings.

Our philosophy is that children learn and develop best through play, exploration, being active and creative, alongside engaging in high-quality talk opportunities.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (EYFS) sets out children's learning and development stages as they grow from birth to five years. It covers 7 areas of learning; Communication and Language (CL), Physical Development (PD), Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED), Literacy (L), Mathematics (M), Understanding the World (UfW) and Expressive Arts and Design (EAD).

Our curriculum across the Early Years is unique to each individual cohort of children, our local community and is reflective and ever-changing. Our children learn largely through child-led learning through their play, alongside whole class and group work. We carefully plan our provision to meet our children's individual needs, next steps and interests. At Hordle we have an open plan, free-flow environment that encourages the children to foster their independence, resilience, thinking and key skills - making the most of the inside and outside environments (in all weathers).

Much of the content of the EYFS is delivered through continuous provision alongside themes across the school year. Within each theme, children will experience:

- Wow activity
- A range of rich, key texts that maximise opportunities for children to find out more about the wider world
- Real-life experiences that provide and reinforce context for children
- Links to their prior learning, with a clear progression of skills across all areas of learning
- Opportunities to maximise language development

### **Assessment in the Early Years**

In the Summer term of Year R, the statutory EYFS Profile is completed for each child. The EYFS Profile provides parents and carers, practitioners and teachers with a well-rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities, their attainment against expected levels, and their readiness for year 1. Each child's level of development in the Summer term is assessed against the early learning goals, indicating whether children are meeting expected levels of development, or if they are not yet reaching expected levels.