



## The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum at The Limes



### Our Vision

At The Limes we believe in 'Growing Learners for Life' and our Early Years vision is to provide children with a high-quality education through a child centred approach. We have passionate staff who are very experienced within the Early Years curriculum and they celebrate the uniqueness of all children. We strive to educate using contextual learning which is linked to the children's interests. We deliver our learning through a balance of adult led and child-initiated activities, aiming to develop the children's independence and make them intrinsically motivated to learn throughout their environment. We follow our 'Learning Pathway' curriculum, details of which can be found on our website.

### The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework

We follow the EYFS Statutory framework. The Framework is divided into 3 sections:

1. Characteristics of Effective Learning
2. The Prime Areas of learning
3. The Specific Areas of learning

#### Characteristics of Effective Learning

How a child learns in the early years is related to the characteristics of effective learning. These are:

**Playing and exploring**, which is about finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and being willing to 'have a go'.

**Active Learning**, which is about being involved and concentrating, persevering and enjoying achieving what they set out to do.

**Creating and thinking critically**, which is about having their own ideas, making links and choosing ways to do things.



## Learning Powers

As a school these are also thought about through our Learning Powers which the children learn about in the Early Years but also throughout their education at The Limes. The Learning Powers are:

- **Collaboration:** we learn together
- **Curiosity:** we are inquisitive and want to find out
- **Responsibility:** we take control of our own learning
- **Resourcefulness:** we are creative in our thinking
- **Reflectiveness:** we evaluate our own learning
- **Resilience:** we learn from our mistakes



## The three Prime Areas of learning are:

- **Communication and Language.** This is about children developing good listening and attention, understanding what is being said and developing speaking skills so they can express themselves.
- **Physical Development.** This is about children working on coordination with big and small movements, developing their control and coordination and also developing their independence within self-care.
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development.** This is children developing their relationships with other children and adults and growing in self-confidence and awareness. We also develop their understanding of managing their feelings.



## The four Specific Areas of learning are:

- **Literacy.** This is developing children's knowledge of stories, rhymes and reading and developing mark making and writing.
- **Mathematics.** This is developing children's concept of number, counting and shape, space and measures.
- **Understanding the World.** This develops children's understanding of the world around them through both people and communities, nature and technology.
- **Expressive Arts and Design.** This develops children's creative ideas through different forms. We explore music, dance, different media and materials and promote imaginary play.



Children will access these areas through play-based activities throughout the year. These activities will be both indoors and outdoors throughout the year. Children will also be leading their own learning through their play and adults will be extending this. At the end of the EYFS (end of Reception) the children will be assessed against all the areas of learning. The children will either be assessed at emerging (below national average), expected (at national average) or exceeding (above national average).

### Phonics

As a school we follow the '**Read Write Inc.**' phonics scheme which shares our drive to ensure that every child learns to read and write. The comprehensive scheme teaches phonics, reading, comprehension, writing, spoken English, spelling, grammar, vocabulary, punctuation, composition and handwriting through daily sessions.

