



DELIVERING OUR CURRICULUM USING THE PRINCIPLES OF HIGHSCOPE

Our provision in EYFS has for many years been based around the Principles of the HighScope approach to learning. Following the huge success of the progress and achievements of the children in our Foundation Stage, we have developed our Key Stage One 'Creative Curriculum' to incorporate many of these areas of strength. This has had a positive impact on the happiness of our children as they transition between the two statutory key curriculums followed in school. The approach is progressive throughout the school to ensure we are preparing the children fully for each next step in their journey through education.

We have based the development of the experiences for our children in both key stages upon the HighScope Goals for Children:

- To learn through active involvement with people, materials, events and ideas
- To become independent, responsible and confident – ready for school – ready for life
- To learn to plan many of their own activities, carry them out and talk with other children and their teachers about what they have done and what they have learnt
- To gain knowledge and skills in important content areas

Active Learning is central to the children's experiences and this enables high levels of involvement and engagement in the curriculum. We have developed the 'Learning to Learn' Characters to ensure the Characteristics of Effective Learning are central to children's understanding of themselves as learners and this is reflective in all teaching sessions across the school. In understanding 'how' and 'why' they learn children are empowered to access the next stage of their curriculum content.

"In the HighScope approach to early childhood education, adults and children share control. We recognise that the power to learn resides in the child, hence the focus on active learning practices. When we accept that learning comes from within, we achieve a critical balance in educating young children. The adult role is to support and guide young children through their active learning adventures and experiences." (David P. Weikart, 1995, Founder of HighScope)

The EYFS Curriculum (based on the statutory EYFS Curriculum) and the KS1 Creative Curriculum (based on the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum) are delivered through 'Plan, Work, Recall' sessions. Children in all classes are involved in:

- A 'Planning' session – A whole class session to understand the activities prepared and the outcomes for their learning
- A 'Working Time' session – A busy session with lots of opportunities to practice and develop core English and Maths skills, explore and discover new learning and thinking, create purposeful outcomes towards their curriculum goals. Children have opportunities to work independently or engage in collaborative activities, learning alongside their peers and teachers
- A 'Recall' session – To reflect upon their learning focusing on the 'Learning to Learn' Characters and to plan for next steps

For the children in our EYFS classroom, Plan, Work and Recall sessions happen twice a day, every day. For the children in our KS1 classes, Plan, Work and Recall sessions happen across 4 afternoons of the week.