



Curriculum Intent and Implementation

At Castleway Nursery School we believe in working in partnership with parents to enable children to reach their full potential, ensuring their school journey begins in a positive way creating lifelong learners. We support diversity by planning and guiding what our children learn, reflecting on every child's unique, individual learning journey and adjust our practice accordingly.

The three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- **playing and exploring** – children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'
- **active learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- **creating and thinking critically** – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things

The EYFS curriculum has seven areas of learning and development that are important and inter-connected. Three Prime areas are particularly important for building a strong foundation and igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive'.

These are the prime areas:

Communication and Language: Listening, Attention and Understanding- Speaking

Physical Development: Gross and Fine Motor Skills

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Self-Regulation- Managing Self- Building Relationships

Communication and Language

Intent

Developing a child's language is the most important job we have as educators. The world belongs to children who can communicate and express their feelings, ideas and needs. The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development.

At Castleway Nursery School we want to develop:

- Children who have age appropriate speech and language skills with the confidence to ask questions, and express their opinions and ideas.
- Children who can listen and respond appropriately when they are in a group of children.
- Children who can talk about what they are doing and the things they remember.
- Children who are comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures.



Implementation

Staff will model language skills through the conversations and interactions they have with children as they play. Staff will work alongside children, commenting on what they are interested in or doing, and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added. New vocabulary will be used repeatedly as staff demonstrate the practical applications of new words. Reading and books are key to developing our children's vocabulary and understanding of words. Staff will read frequently to children, engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts. At Castleway Nursery School, children will experience conversations, story-telling and role play in a language-rich environment. Teachers will support children through modelling of language and sensitive questioning to help children become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Intent

Children's personal, social and emotional development is crucial for them to lead happy and healthy lives and is fundamental to their cognitive development. We want our children to be happy and sociable learners.

At Castleway Nursery school we want to develop:

- Children who are happy and settled in nursery.
- Children with the skills to be confident learners, who are willing to try and persevere with new things.
- Children who can understand their own feelings and show an awareness of the feelings of others.
- Children who can build happy, healthy friendships.

Implementation

Each child is assigned a keyworker who will support them on their learning journey. A child's keyworker provides a strong, warm and supportive relationship to enable them to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others. Staff will model how to manage a variety of different scenarios that children will encounter as they play with other children. Children will receive guidance from their keyworker as they learn to play and co-operate, to make friends with other children and resolve conflicts peacefully. Children will be supported to manage their emotions, and develop a positive sense of self through praise. Challenging activities will encourage children to set themselves simple goals and have confidence in their own abilities, promoting motivation and a love of learning. We want our children to be persistent learners and staff will encourage children to keep trying as they learn new skills. Through careful modelling and discussion children will learn how to look after their bodies, by learning about healthy eating, and managing personal needs independently. If children are successful in learning these skills it will provide a secure platform from which children can achieve at school and in later life.



Physical Development

Intent

'Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives'. To be independent learners, children need good gross and fine motor skills. In developing these skills children also develop the strength and dexterity needed for good self-help skills. Independence with self-help skills give children the confidence to succeed and take care of themselves.



At Castleway Nursery School we want to develop:

- Children who can use the toilet independently
- Children who have the dressing skills they will need when they go to school
- Children who can climb, run and jump with confidence.
- Children who can use toys and tools safely and effectively



Implementation

'Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being'. We provide our children with a large, well-resourced outdoor space for physical activity. Our outdoor space has been designed to have hills, slopes, steps and different surfaces to provide different challenges as children move around the garden. As children use climbing equipment in nursery, staff support children to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. 'Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye co-ordination, which is later linked to early literacy'. We support children as they access sensory activities which will develop children's fine motor skills. Staff provide varied opportunities to explore and play with small world activities, puzzles, arts and craft, baking and the practice of small tools to allow children to develop proficiency, control and confidence.

The Specific Areas of Learning

Once the children are proficient in the Prime areas, staff will support children in the *four specific areas*, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

The specific areas of learning are:

Literacy: Comprehension-Word Reading-Writing.

Mathematics: Number- Numerical Patterns

Understanding the World: Past and Present- People, Culture and Communities-The Natural World

Expressive Arts and Design: Creating with Materials- Being Imaginative and Expressive

Literacy

Intent

Listening to stories is vitally important in widening a child's life experiences, building their vocabulary, and understanding of writing, and sentence structures. There is nothing more language rich than books and stories!

At Castleway Nursery School we want to develop:

- Children who have a life-long love of reading.
- Children who love stories and books, rhymes, poems and songs.



- Children who will be able to retell familiar stories.
- Children who can make marks to represent their name and talk about their drawings.
- Children who know the difference between pictures and words



Implementation

‘Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading’. To develop children’s language comprehension, staff will talk to children about the world around them, and share books that are both fiction and non-fiction. Stories are available throughout the day with opportunities to read in the book corner. We provide our children with a variety of rhymes, poems and songs that we can enjoy together and supplement this work with retelling stories and rhymes using puppets, small world play and role play. We use quiet group sessions to teach children to listen carefully to sounds and to recognise syllables, rhymes and rhythms in preparation for phonics work in school. There are spaces for children to experiment with mark making, large and small, where staff model drawing pictures, and turn pictures into stories and writing. Staff use play, to model writing letters, shopping lists, messages, recipes and construction plans.

Mathematics

Intent

‘Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically’.



At Castleway Nursery School we want to develop:

- Children who have a positive attitude and interest in mathematics
- Children who can count objects in their play.
- Children who understand how different shapes fit together.
- Children who will use and understand mathematical vocabulary such as tall, long, short, heavy, light, fewer, more
- Children who can copy and begin to create simple patterns.



Implementation

We will provide a variety of materials for children to explore that will enable them to develop a deep understanding of numbers, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. Staff will demonstrate counting both in practical activities and during group sessions, supporting children as they learn to count confidently.

‘By providing frequent and varied opportunities to build and apply this understanding – such as using manipulatives, including small pebbles and tens frames for organising counting – children will develop a secure base of knowledge and vocabulary from which mastery of mathematics is built.’

During activities children will get the opportunities to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures. Careful questioning such as “What do you notice?” will encourage experimentation with mathematical concepts so that children have the confidence to ‘have a go’, begin to notice patterns and relationships, and spot connections as they learn.

Understanding the World

Understanding of the world helps child to make sense of their physical surrounding and their communities, widening and enriching vocabulary through a variety of different experiences.

Intention

At Castleway Nursery School we want to develop:

- Children who are curious and excited to learn about their physical world, local community and family's history.
- Children who describe what they see and ask questions to learn more.
- Children who explore how things work, experiment, compare and test ideas.

Implementation

We believe that by giving children a wide range of experiences it will increase their knowledge and sense of the world around them. We invite important members of the community such as police officers, dentists and firefighters to talk to the children about their work. Our garden is visited by a wide range of wildlife, hedgehogs, woodpeckers, frogs, newts, dragonflies and other insects and the children have the opportunity to grow and observe a range of plants, flowers, fruit and vegetables. We use a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems to develop our children's understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world. 'As well as building important knowledge, this extends their familiarity with words that support understanding across domains. Enriching and widening children's vocabulary will support later reading comprehension'.

Expressive Arts and Design

We believe it is important to foster the development of our children's artistic and cultural awareness to support their imagination and creativity. 'The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts.'

Intention

At Castleway Nursery school we want to develop:

- Children who are confident to explore and experiment with colour, texture and materials.
- Children who play imaginatively to make up simple stories.
- Children who sing simple songs and experiment with instruments and dance.

Implementation

Staff will use books and pictures from a range of artists and cultures to grow children's artistic and cultural awareness and support their imagination and creativity. Children can access the craft area throughout the day, so they will have regular opportunities to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. They will be supported by staff who will enable them to make their ideas a reality. Staff will model how to join materials and mix paint in a variety of ways. We will provide music sessions so that the children will see real instruments being played and they can explore using instruments to follow rhythms and beats. Vocabulary will be modelled so that children will use to describe both what they see and want to create. Staff will play imaginatively with children to support their play including in the role-play area, garden, small world or with puppets. Stories have been chosen that will inspire the children to retell them using a range of resources, before extending the tale with their own ideas.

