

Reviewed July 2015

Aire Valley Nursery Schools Collaboration



Mathematics Policy

Rationale

"Research on children's learning in the first six years of life demonstrates the importance of early experiences in mathematics. An engaging and encouraging climate for children's early encounters with mathematics develops their confidence in their ability to understand and use mathematics. These positive experiences help children to develop dispositions such as curiosity, imagination, flexibility, inventiveness, and persistence, which contribute to their future success in and out of school"

Clements & Conference Working Group

"We can influence children's keenness to learn mathematics by making the tasks they do of interest to them... by showing that we really think maths is important and fun and that it is therefore good to be a person who likes mathematics

" Mathematics in the Early Years, Clemson and Clemson 1994 London, Routledge

Mathematics is a highly inter-connected discipline critical to science, technology and engineering and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. Developing a good understanding of mathematical concepts is therefore essential in enabling children to participate successfully in society and in understanding their world. A high quality mathematics education will support children in their ability to do this.

Children begin to explore mathematical concepts through their play from an early age. This playful approach should continue in nursery. It ensures their developing knowledge and understanding is grounded in concrete experiences, which are important building blocks for future learning.

To provide effectively for the needs of all our children we will use the 'Statutory Framework for The Early Years Foundation Stage' to inform our practice.

The four guiding principles of EYFS, Unique child, Positive relationships, Enabling environments and Children develop and learn in different ways at different times will be at the heart of our day to day practice.

We recognise the individuality of all children and the need to nurture their confidence, capabilities and independence, to this end we will ensure that our practice reflects the characteristics of effective teaching and learning, playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically.

Aims

- To provide a cross-curricular and whole school approach to the teaching of maths, which is grounded in knowledge and understanding of the subject matter and the most effective ways of teaching and learning
- To provide a mathematically rich environment indoors and outdoors in which children can experience mathematical ideas in a purposeful way.
- To use the environment to support and develop mathematical learning through continuous provision and enhanced provision that is rich and varied and responds to spontaneous play and children's interests
- To plan experiences with a mathematical focus
- To support children's learning with high quality adult interaction
- To work in partnership with parents by sharing information regarding Mathematical development and their child's learning.
- To have a particular focus on the aspects of mathematical development in our planning and assessment
 - Numbers
 - Shape, space and measures
- To ensure that all children are supported in making the best possible progress.

Objectives

- We will develop mathematical understanding through all children's early years experiences, including through stories, songs, games and imaginative play, use the natural and made world etc.
- We will use children's interests as they occur and develop these in a mathematical direction when appropriate.
- We will encourage children to develop a positive attitude to mathematics by transmitting enthusiasm and enjoyment in the subject.
- We will plan activities, problems and challenges for groups and individuals.
- Use experiential activities and visual aids to support mathematical learning
- We will increase staff knowledge about mathematical development through relevant in-service training
- We will ensure that children are making the best progress. Over time, we will assess and track their progress. The results of which will inform future planning both at an individual level and also at a curriculum level.