Our Early Years Curriculum

Be Kind • Aim High • Discover

A strong start for every child

At Queens Road Academy, we are proud of the start we give children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Early years is a distinctive and important phase in which we support the development of the whole child. Children learn through a carefully balanced curriculum that combines purposeful play, high-quality adult interaction, direct teaching and rich experiences.

The seven areas of learning

Our curriculum reflects the seven areas of learning and development within the EYFS. These areas are closely connected and together help children build the knowledge, skills, confidence and attitudes they need for future learning.

Three prime areas

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development

Four specific areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

How children learn at Queens Road Academy

Purposeful play

High-quality play is central to each day. Children are encouraged to explore, investigate, create, practise and develop their own ideas, working independently and alongside other children and adults, both indoors and outdoors.

Responsive teaching

Activities and experiences are planned from secure assessment and a strong understanding of what children already know and can do. Adults use this knowledge to identify next steps, respond to individual needs and address gaps in learning.

Language and oracy

Communication and language are at the heart of our provision. Adults model ambitious vocabulary, create opportunities for sustained conversation and support children to explain their thinking, listen carefully and communicate with confidence.

Preparing for what comes next

Our EYFS curriculum is aligned with the statutory educational programmes and connects with HCAT curriculum thinking across subjects. It is reviewed regularly so that children build strong foundations and are well prepared for Year 1 and the next phase of their education.

Our curriculum approach

Our curriculum is informed by the EYFS statutory framework and Development Matters. Learning is carefully sequenced and adapted to reflect children's starting points, interests and developmental needs. Practitioners consider the characteristics of effective teaching and learning and provide an environment in which children can play and explore, learn actively, and create and think critically.

Curriculum progression

Our progression documents set out how learning develops through Nursery and Reception. Website links can be added alongside this page for:

- Nursery literacy progression
- Reception literacy progression
- Nursery mathematics progression
- Reception mathematics progression
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development progression
- Physical Development progression
- Expressive Arts and Design progression
- Understanding the World progression

Working with families

We value the important partnership between home and school. Families are encouraged to talk to us about their child's learning and development and to share information that helps us understand each child as an individual.

Would you like to know more?

For further information about the Early Years curriculum at Queens Road Academy, please contact the school at queensroad@hcacademytrust.education or telephone 01226 737010. We will be happy to put you in touch with a member of the Early Years team.