

Introduction to EYFS

Children start their learning journey at Millfield in the Early Years Foundation Stage, which includes our Nursery and two Reception classes - Rockets and Stars. In Nursery and Reception the children have access to a large outdoor area as part of their exploring and learning and in Reception they have the freedom to move between the two classrooms.

Children develop quickly in the Early Years and our highly skilled practitioners do all they can to ensure that our children have the best possible start in their education. At Millfield we fully embrace the four guiding principles that shape the EYFS:

- Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**.
- Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments**, with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time.
- Importance of **learning and development**. Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

Our EYFS provides children with a stimulating, purposeful and engaging learning environment where they are able to explore, take risks, think critically and be creative. Developing positive and effective characteristics of learning is at the heart of our provision.

- **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

These characteristics underpin our children's learning and development and support them in becoming and remaining effective and motivated life long learners.