

Learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage

at Queenborough School and Nursery 2021 - 2022



Our context:

Queenborough School & Nursery serves the communities of Queenborough and Rushenden on the Isle of Sheppey. The school sits within an area of high deprivation, with over 40% of pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium, ranking as the 22nd most deprived school, out of 455 in Kent (2019).

Many of our pupils join our Early Years Foundation Stage well below national expectations for their age and a high proportion come from disadvantaged backgrounds. We prioritise Communication and Language, due to the vast number of children who join the EYFS with speech and language difficulties; many children need additional intervention from our highly skilled Nursery Nurses and Teaching Assistants. We focus on the children acquiring a wide vocabulary and communicating effectively. We pride ourselves in developing positive relationships between adults and children as well as with their peers. Our enabling environment and warm, skilful adult interactions support the children as they begin their learning journey. Across the EYFS, adult interactions support pupils to aim high in all areas of their learning; all pupils develop a strong positive attitude towards their learning, regardless of their ability.

Intent:

At Queenborough School and Nursery, we believe that the Early Years Foundation Stage is crucial in securing solid foundations for learning that children will continue to build upon. It is our intent that the children who enter our EYFS develop physically, verbally, cognitively and emotionally whilst embedding a positive attitude towards school and learning. We believe that all children deserve to be valued as individual and we are passionate in allowing all children to achieve their full potential, regardless of their starting points. EYFS plays a crucial role in igniting the flame for learning. This is imperative in transforming the lives of the children in our care and thus the future of our local community.

We have 8 core aims in the EYFS at Queenborough School and Nursery:

1	Love Learning 	Our core aim is to give each child in the EYFS a happy, positive and fun start to their school life in which they can establish solid foundations on which to expand and foster a deep love of learning.
2	Love Reading 	We want our children to develop a life-long love of reading. All practitioners across the EYFS immerse children in a language rich environment where they talk with children about the world around them. They read and share books together and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs. Shared story times are a wonderful time for transporting children into the storybook world.
3	Happy and Healthy 	It is important to us that all members of our school community understand how to make healthy lifestyle choices both physically and mentally. We recognise the responsibility we have for the physical development and the well-being of our children. We want to help pupils develop confidence, motivation, self-belief and a strong sense of self-worth. We will exploit every opportunity through our curriculum to help the children to develop the physical and mental strength to be successful and happy.
4	Super Speakers 	We want our children to be confident communicators. We want them to develop the skills necessary to communicate their thoughts, ideas and feelings successfully and understand the importance of listening and respecting others views. We want them to become enthusiastic readers as this broadens horizons, develops imagination and will expose them to a wealth of new vocabulary.

5	<p>Curious</p> 	<p>As a teaching staff, we want to develop a climate for learning that nurtures children's natural curiosity, enabling them to become independent in thought and action and encourage them to imagine, enquire and become increasingly ambitious. We want our children to be confident to take risks and learn from trial and error. We also want our children to engage in rich experiences that give them opportunities to think critically, solve problems which enhance their resilience.</p>
6	<p>World Explorers</p> 	<p>We believe our children need to know about and understand the world that is both on and beyond their immediate doorstep. We want them to have a knowledge of world and current world events. We want them to see that they have a part to play in it, taking part in charity events and learning about how children live in other parts of the world. We want our children to recognise that they can always make a difference to both their community and their global world.</p>
7	<p>Proud of our Community</p> 	<p>We want our children to develop a sense of pride in themselves and understand the importance of being tolerant, respectful and how to value the difference in others. We will encourage them to be good citizens and be aware of their responsibility to care for their environment. We will always look to make local links with our local community and surrounding area so pupils can relate their learning to their own experience.</p>
8	<p>Independence</p> 	<p>We want to empower our children in the Early Years to be independent, in relation to both their actions and their thinking. We want our children to be confident in their own abilities and we willing to take risks and try new things in a safe and supportive environment.</p>