



Hillside School Nursery *Curriculum Rationale* August 2020



Hillside School Nursery
Curriculum Rationale

What do we want for our learners?

- Safety and security
- To be happy, engaged and learning
- To develop independence
- To be resilient
- To feel valued
- To develop literacy and numeracy skills through play
- To progress with key developmental milestones
- An awareness of digital technology
- Opportunities to be active
- Successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors
- To become aware of their achievements in and out with nursery
- A 'can do' attitude
- Developed play skills in structured and free play contexts
- To be able to communicate their needs, suitable to their development
- Creativity, curiosity and inquiry skills
- To make good and healthy choices
- To be considerate of others
- Increased regulation of their thoughts, feelings and actions
- To understand the need to play, learn and be safe
- Celebrate diversity

What informs our practice?

- Hillside School's Vision and Values - *We are on a journey to grow, believe and achieve* through 6 key values (**safe, kind, Respectful, Happy, Hardworking, Inclusive**)
- *The Curriculum for Excellence* and the 7 Principles of Curriculum Design (Challenge and Enjoyment, Breadth, Progression, Depth, Personalisation and Choice, Coherence and Relevance)
- *Getting it Right for Every Child* principles and the wellbeing indicators (**Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible and Included**)
- *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*
- Care Inspectorate policies, guidelines and publications
- Scottish Government's *Realising the Ambition: Being Me- National Practice Guidance for Early Years in Scotland* (2020)
- Education Scotland's *How Good is our Early Learning Child Care 4*
- National Health Care Standards (2018)
- Aberdeenshire Council *Curricular Frameworks*
- *Emerging Literacy Developmental Overviews*

How do we achieve what we want for our children?

| <u>Curriculum Areas</u> Literacy and English / Numeracy and Mathematics / Health and Wellbeing Social Studies / Science / Expressive Arts / Technologies / Religious and Moral Education | |
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| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Contexts for Learning</u></p> <p>Learning through play - indoors, outdoors and free flow</p> <p>Quality environments which promote curiosity, creativity and inquiry</p> <p>Literacy and numeracy rich environments</p> <p>Loose Parts play</p> <p>Access to natural resources</p> <p>Real life contexts and objects</p> <p>Following children's interests and voice</p> <p>Snack</p> <p>School environment(s)</p> <p>Themes through floorbook planning</p> <p>Pupil participation in planning</p> <p>Community links</p> <p>Celebrations of various festivals, beliefs and customs</p> <p>Transition programmes</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Learning and Teaching Approaches</u></p> <p>A shared ethos of <i>learning through play</i></p> <p>Adopting a holistic approach to planning, learning and teaching</p> <p>Responding to children through quality observations, interactions and planning</p> <p>Inclusive practices</p> <p>Floorbook planning- identifying possible lines of development</p> <p>Responsive planning (incl. environmental)</p> <p>Regular communication with parents</p> <p>Home packs</p> <p>Tracking and monitoring children's progress and establishing significant learning and next steps</p> <p>Collaborative approaches</p> <p>Links with Primary 1 and the wider school</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Assessment Approaches</u></p> <p>Observations made, recorded and responded to using pupil profiles</p> <p>Responsive to children's needs and next steps in development</p> <p>Tracking of Emerging Literacy</p> <p>Developmental Overviews</p> <p>Tracking of Literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing areas twice per year- in line with Aberdeenshire frameworks</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Recognising Achievement</u></p> <p>Wider achievement's wall (including nursery charter awards)</p> <p>Presentations to parents/carers and wider school community</p> <p>Sports Day</p> <p>Twitter uploads</p> <p>Profile section for Wider Achievement for parental/carer contributions</p> <p>Parental engagement</p> <p>Hillside Hero Awards</p> <p>Assembly award</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Parental Engagement</u></p> <p>Feedback through <i>Question of the Month/term</i> and online questionnaires</p> <p>Stay and Play</p> <p>Open evenings</p> <p>6 month Personal/Care plan reviews</p> <p>Multi agency working</p> <p>Individualised Care/Education Plans</p> <p>Share progress and information through: profiles, Twitter, parent/carer presentations, newsletters</p> | |