



Hillside School Nursery *Curriculum Rationale* October 2023



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 - **Be the best we can be** through 3 key values (**Respectful, Resilient and Ambitious**)
- 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*
- *Pre-school and EAL Developmental Overviews*
- *Phonological Awareness and Mathematical Trackers*

How do we achieve what we want for our children?

Curriculum Areas

Literacy and English / Numeracy and Mathematics / Health and Wellbeing
 Social Studies / Science / Expressive Arts / Technologies / Religious and Moral Education

Contexts for Learning

Learning through play - indoors, outdoors
 and free flow
 Quality environments which promote
 curiosity, creativity and inquiry
 Literacy and numeracy rich environments
 Loose Parts play
 Access to natural resources
 Real life contexts and objects
 Following children's interests and voice
 Mealtimes
 School environment(s)
 Themes through floorbook planning
 Pupil participation in planning
 Community links
 Celebrations of various festivals, beliefs
 and customs
 Transition programmes

Learning and Teaching Approaches

A shared ethos of *learning through play*
 Adopting a holistic approach to planning,
 learning and teaching
 Responding to children through quality
 observations, interactions and planning
 Inclusive practices
 Floorbook planning- identifying possible
 lines of development
 Responsive planning (incl. environmental)
 Regular communication with parents
 Home packs
 Tracking and monitoring children's progress
 and establishing significant learning and
 next steps
 Collaborative approaches
 Links with Primary 1 and the wider school

Assessment Approaches

Observations made, recorded and
 responded to using pupil profiles
 Responsive to children's needs and next
 steps in development
 Tracking of Emerging Literacy &
 Mathematics
 Developmental Overviews
 Tracking of Literacy, numeracy and health
 and wellbeing areas on a termly basis- in line
 with Aberdeenshire frameworks

Recognising Achievement

Wider achievement's wall (including nursery
 charter awards)
 Presentations to parents/carers and wider
 school community
 Sports Day
 Twitter uploads
 Profile section for Wider Achievement for
 parental/carer contributions
 Parental engagement
 Hillside Hero Awards
 Assembly award

Parental Engagement

Feedback through *Question of the Month/term* and online questionnaires
 Stay and Play
 Open evenings
 Termly Personal/Care Plan reviews
 Multi agency working
 Individualised Care/Education Plans
 Share progress and information through: profiles, Twitter, parent/carer
 presentations, newsletters