



Curriculum Overview for Year Reception

Religious Education

At St Ambrose Barlow we follow a Religious programme called 'Come and See'. Through engaging, practical integrated activities children can learn more about themselves, other people and the world around them and develop their religious knowledge, skills and understanding. We take part in class and school Collective worship each day often led by the children themselves or the school worship team. We learn lots of different prayers and songs that we can then share in parent or school assemblies and in Mass. We learn about values through stories, role play and scripture. Some of the topics are: Birthday – looking forward to Jesus' birthday. Growing – looking forward to Easter.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

A prime area that involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their abilities. At St Ambrose Barlow we encourage and promote these important life skills through lessons such as feelings, friendships and sharing. We continuously praise these behaviours and look for learning opportunities throughout daily routines and other areas of learning.

Communication

A prime area that involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations. Our environment, curriculum and daily routines at St Ambrose Barlow engage children in natural communication development. We also look specifically at activities that provide an opportunity to practice these skills, such as; the use of story bags, putting on shows and recording our own stories that we can share with parents via Twitter, School Blog or SeeSaw.

Physical

A prime area that involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food. This area focuses on the importance of fine and gross motor skills to enable children to succeed in other areas of learning. As well as promoting physical activity throughout the day the children are provided with a two hour PE session and we also have sessions with Wigan's 'Active Life'.

Literacy

A specific area that involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials, books, poems and other written materials to ignite their interests. As well as a phonics lesson each day we have a big book each week that is linked to a topic or interest of the children's. We have word and sentence building activities, guided reading, library sessions, writing opportunities within areas of play and exploit any opportunity to write for a purpose.

Mathematics

A specific area that involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces and measure. We have a daily Mathematics session and provide playful opportunities for the children to apply their learning through games and physical activities. Opportunities for example are; shape hunts, hopscotch, number corners, dice games where children are the counters, bean bag throw, bingo, playing shop, play dough shapes and many more.



Understanding the World

A specific area that involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about, people, places, technology and the environment. We follow the children's interests and also have a different topic each half term which are of natural interest to the children. We use our extensive outdoor area and grounds to explore the environment. We make full use of our parent's talents and ask them to come in at various points in the year, we go on trips and fully involve ourselves in themed weeks at school such as Chinese New Year, Internet Safety week, Science week, Eco week and many other opportunities. The children have access to a wide range of technology at our school and have weekly sessions in our ICT suite as well as I pads, computers, remote control toys and other technology available in their classroom environment.

Expressive Arts and Design

A specific area that involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology. Our environment is an enabling environment to promote this area of learning. Children are encouraged to explore their own interests and develop their own ideas. We also have specific lessons that teach various skills to ensure the children have the ability to carry out their own ideas. Often within other areas of learning the children have opportunities to role-play, dance, create and respond creatively.