

Foundation Curriculum Handbook

Welcome to Oxford Academy School Foundation Department. Our Foundation Department caters for Kindergarten (KG) and Reception classes. We have nine classes, four in Kindergarten and five in Reception. Each class has a teacher and an assistant to teach and work with the children.

The Department has its own playground, where Physical Education is conducted and children have space to run and play on a variety of different equipment during their break times.

Children at this age learn through play and ‘hands on’ activities and we include a range of child and teacher directed activities in all our classroom programmes. We have created a stimulating, caring and secure environment in which your child is free to develop intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally.

CURRICULUM

In the Foundation Department we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage of the English National Curriculum. This is divided into the seven learning areas, three Prime areas and four specific areas. The three Prime areas are developmental and the specific areas are areas which children need to be specifically taught. The table below, taken from the curriculum shows the main areas of teaching and how children learn.

Characteristics of Effective Learning	Area of Learning and Development	Aspect
<p>Playing and exploring – engagement</p> <p>Finding out and exploring Playing with what they know Being willing to ‘have a go’</p>	Prime Areas	
	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Making relationships Self-confidence and self-awareness Managing feelings and behaviour
	Physical Development	Moving and handling Health and self-care
<p>Active learning – motivation</p> <p>Being involved and concentrating Keeping trying Enjoying achieving what they set out to do</p>	Communication and Language	Listening and attention Understanding Speaking
	Specific areas	
	Literacy	Reading Writing
<p>Creating and thinking critically – thinking</p> <p>Having their own ideas Making links Choosing ways to do things</p>	Mathematics	Numbers Shape, space and measure
	Understanding the World	People and communities The world Technology
	Expressive Arts and Design	Exploring and using media and materials Being imaginative

Children are taught specific skills and concepts and then reinforce these through practical, problem solving activities, some which are initiated by the child and some teacher directed.

Assessments are based primarily on observation of daily activities and events. At the end of their foundation years, assessment data is passed onto Year One teachers to help their transition to the Primary School.



Mission of the Foundation Department

It is during the first years of life that children form attitudes about themselves, others, learning, and the environment. These attitudes last a lifetime, so we work very hard to find ways to help children develop positive attitudes.

The goal of our programme is to meet your child's needs not only intellectually, but also physically, socially, and emotionally.

Educating a child is most successful when families and schools work together in the best interest of the child. We welcome your valuable input and assistance after all you are the child's first teacher! Valuing education and the opportunities it provides are important first steps.

Going to school is one of the most important experiences in a child's life. School can be an exciting place where children meet new and different people and participate in a variety of learning experiences. We work diligently to provide the children with wonderful experiences that help them to feel good about themselves and their school.

We look forward to sharing your child's learning journey over the next two years and getting to know you the parent better.



KINDERGARTEN

Literacy

The learning outcomes for Literacy are for children to:

- Develop English skills through theme work, songs, rhymes and circle time.
- Develop listening skills through stories and creative activities such as colouring and tracing.
- Enhance skills to recognise / discriminate phonic letter sounds and verbalise them.
- Recognise their own names.
- Reinforce handwriting skills.

Useful websites to use at home

- www.abcfastphonics.com
- www.jollylearning.co.uk
- www.teaching.com
- www.learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org
- www.kidzone.com

Mathematics

The learning outcomes for Mathematics are for children to:

- Recognise numbers 1–10.
- Counting by rote 1–10.
- Understand the concept of sets.
- Recognise / discriminate shapes and colours.
- Understand the concept of opposites.

Useful websites

- www.prekinders.com
- www.learning4kids.net
- www.education.com
- www.handsonaswegrow.com
- www.mathworksheets4kids.com
- www.greatschools.org



RECEPTION

Literacy

The learning outcomes for Literacy are for children to:

- Develop English skills through theme work, songs, rhymes and circle time.
- Recognise / discriminate phonic letter sounds/blends (sh, ch, th) and verbalise them along with naming the five vowels.
- Build CVC words (consonant/vowel/consonant).
- Recognise sight words which are also sent home for further reinforcement.
- Develop their reading skills using The Oxford Reading Tree Series.
- Write their name independently.
- Reinforce handwriting skills.

Mathematics

The learning outcomes for Mathematics are for children to:

- Recognise numbers 1–20.
- Recognise the name numbers 1-10 (one, two, three etc...)
- Count forward and backwards.
- Understand the concept of sets.
- Introduce the concept of addition and subtraction.
- Recognise patterns and missing numbers.
- Classify objects by shape, size and colour.
- Reinforce their knowledge of shapes and colours.
- Reinforce the concept of opposites.

Additional websites

- www.kidsphonics.com
- www.mathsisfun.com
- www.dltk-kids.com
- www.prek-8.com
- www.kidslearningstation.com
- www.handwritingpractice.net

For further information on daily routines and procedures please refer to Foundation Department Handbook 2015-2016.