



# EYFS Curriculum *Statement*

## Intent

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At St William of York, our curriculum is designed to support all children in becoming confident, independent and curious learners. We place children's well-being at the heart of everything we do, ensuring they feel safe, valued and excited to come to school, while building strong, respectful relationships with peers and adults.

We recognise that 'a child's play is their work.' We believe that play is a child's preferred way of learning, ensuring prominent levels of involvement. It is through play that children are helped to learn how to learn and can begin to make sense of their world.

## Implementation

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Our highly skilled and reflective team of practitioners deliver a carefully planned and ambitious curriculum that meets the needs of all learners. Staff have strong expertise in supporting children with English as an Additional Language and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, ensuring learning is accessible, inclusive and appropriately adapted. High-quality interactions, targeted support and meaningful experiences enable children to develop their interests, strengths and independence.

High-quality interactions are central to our practice and are strengthened through the **EEF ShREC approach (Share attention, Respond, Extend and Conversation)**. Practitioners intentionally share focus with children, respond and model language, extend sentences, learning and thinking, and engage children in sustained back-and-forth conversations. This evidence-informed approach supports strong communication and language development, deepens understanding and thinking, and is particularly effective in supporting children with English as an Additional Language and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Through ShREC, children develop confidence in expressing themselves, build vocabulary and form secure, positive relationships with adults and peers.

As a Catholic school, our values underpin our curriculum, while we actively celebrate and respect a wide range of cultures, languages, religions and life experiences. Through Catholic Social Teaching, children learn about compassion, respect, social justice and caring for others and the world around them, developing a strong moral and social understanding.

We promote independence and self-esteem by encouraging children to attempt tasks independently, with adults offering guidance, modelling and coaching rather than taking over. This approach helps children to develop resilience, confidence and a belief in their own abilities.

We work in close partnership with parents and carers, recognising them as key partners in children's learning and development. We celebrate progress, share learning regularly, offer workshops and 1:1 meetings to ensure families feel supported and informed.

We enrich our curriculum through **Forest School sessions**, which provide regular opportunities for children to learn outdoors, explore the natural environment and take managed risks. These experiences support physical development, problem-solving, teamwork and emotional resilience, while fostering curiosity, creativity and a sense of responsibility for the world around them. Learning outdoors strengthens children's confidence and well-being and complements learning across all areas of the EYFS.

## Inclusion

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A range of targeted interventions are used to support progress in communication and language, personal, social and emotional development, literacy, mathematics and physical development. These interventions are carefully monitored to ensure they have a positive impact on outcomes for all pupils and support children from their individual starting points.

## Impact

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When you step into our Nursery and Reception classes, you will see children accessing resources independently and interacting with their peers in a playful and considered way. Our classrooms are carefully designed to support this independence, acting as the *third teacher*, inspiring curiosity, collaboration and deep engagement in learning.

Through this inclusive and nurturing approach, children build strong foundations for learning, develop positive attitudes and behaviours, and move confidently into Year 1 with curiosity, resilience and a love of learning.

