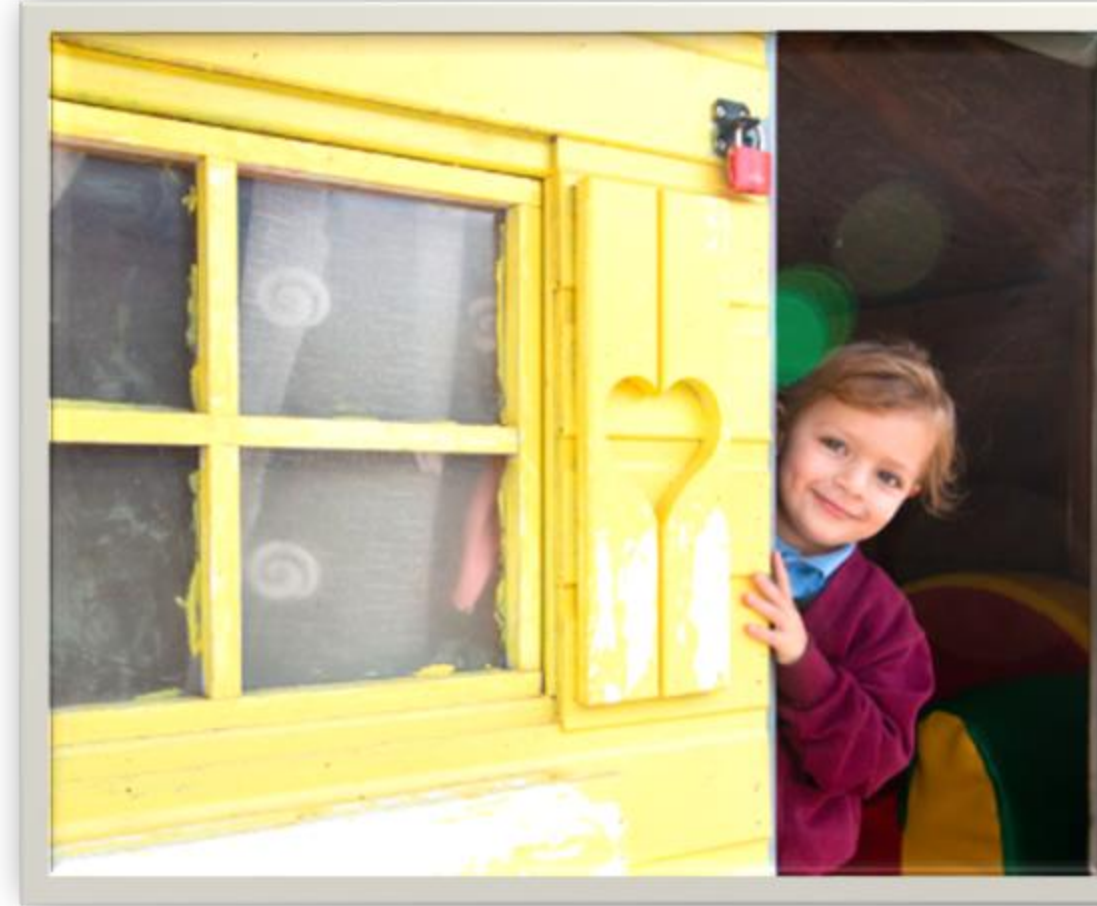




# This is how we learn in Early Years at Holy Trinity Primary Academy and Nursery

St Chad's  
Academies Trust  
a member of cecet



# Early Years Curriculum

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We are strong believers in learning through play balanced with adult directed activities.

Our play based curriculum has been designed specifically to meet the needs of our learners with an emphasis on the unique child at the centre.

The curriculum takes a holistic approach to teaching and learning and is based on educational programmes, the Prime Areas and the Specific Areas.

Our Curriculum has been built on the guidelines listed the New Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS 2021):

[EYFS framework 2021](#)

And the non-statutory curriculum guidance to the EYFS 'Development Matters':

[Development Matters](#)



## Visits, visitors and workshops

We believe that our children learn best through first hand experiences. Our visits include a visit to the local bookshop for our Reception children and a 'Story and Rhyme' session at Oswestry Library for our Nursery children along with parents and carers. Our Reception children are regular visitors to Holy Trinity Church.



Visitors include:  
The Dog's Trust, Air  
Ambulance, Dental  
Practitioners, Nurses



We have lots of  
workshops which take  
place at Holy Trinity  
which involve our  
parents, carers and  
the wider school  
community.







At Holy Trinity we believe very strongly in learning outdoors. We are very lucky to have a wonderful outside area and the children regularly take their learning outdoors into our forest, garden, mud kitchen or excellent outdoor space. Mrs J Dallow is our qualified Forest School Leader.



# Forest School and outdoor learning



# Early Years Curriculum – The Prime Areas

The prime areas are important because they lay the foundations for children's success in all other areas of learning and of life.

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## PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In this area children develop confidence, self esteem and self-regulation skills. They learn about relationships and how to express their feelings. Children learn about sharing, taking turns and negotiating with others. They begin to understand rules but also develop the sense of responsibility and respect, develop their independence skills and they will learn about the importance of hygiene, self-care and oral health.



## COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

In this area children talk about what they want and feel, likes and dislikes. They have opportunities to express themselves through role-play and they can enjoy stories, songs, poems and rhymes. Children use language to describe past and present experiences, and sequence events. Children will learn to share their thoughts freely and confidently in small and large groups and listen and follow instructions, also listening carefully to others and demonstrate asking interesting and appropriate questions.



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

This area sees children playing and learning inside and outside. They become good at moving, climbing, controlling, catching, throwing and coordinating with more and more skill. They will get opportunities to chase, race, jump, balance and play with a partner and in teams. Children will find out about keeping healthy as well as learning to dress and undress themselves. They will use different types of tools for drawing, painting, cutting and sticking to develop fine motor skills.



# Early Years Curriculum- Specific Areas

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## LITERACY

In this area children handle and share books with others. Children will have chances to see letters and words written down, they will learn the sounds of the alphabet through phonics sessions and speaking and listening activities. They will start to hear the different sounds that make up a word and apply this knowledge when looking at words in books and begin to read with comprehension and write captions and sentences.



## MATHS

In this area the children sort and group objects and materials, explaining why they have done something. They will compare height, weight, size and texture. Children will begin to use positional language to tell where things are and to put things in order. Children have opportunities to make models with shapes and talk about them and what they look like. They will then notice and make patterns with them. Children will recognise numbers around them, they will begin to count, add objects together and take them away. They will start to put events in order and investigate how to solve practical problems.



## UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

In this area the children have opportunities to explore and investigate the world around them, they will be able to look at and talk about objects, materials, living creatures and plant life, noticing details, similarities and difference. They will try things out and come to some conclusions and see reason. Children will have support to record findings by drawing, using the computer and camera. They will begin to know about different people and their cultures, past and present, traditions and places in the community.



## EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN

In this area, children will express their own thoughts, ideas and feelings through drawing, painting and model making. They will have the chance to design and make their own creations using man-made and natural materials. They will explore colour, shape and texture using their senses. Children will be able to listen to and make their own music, dance, sing songs and take part in imaginative role play with others.





# Characteristics of effective learning

Our curriculum is about what the children learn but an equal emphasis is also placed on how the children learn. The characteristics of effective learning are the way in which children engage with other people and their environment and are divided into 3 sections, **playing and exploring**, **active learning** and **creating and thinking critically**.