



Unique Child

Each and every child is unique and special

All children at Whinney Banks are embraced and celebrated for their uniqueness. Staff thoughtfully and sensitively ensure that the needs of all children are met and that children have a positive learning experience while in our care.

We work to ensure that children become resilient, self-assured, capable and confident individuals. We let children take risks in a safe environment. Activities are child led or adult focused following our curriculum and from children's interests. We strive to recognise all children's gifts and provide support to develop these further.

At Whinney Banks Primary School all children are treated fairly regardless of their race, religion or stages of learning.

As part of our policy to ensure that our provision meets the needs of each individual child we take account of any special educational needs and disabilities that a child may have. We have a lot of experience of supporting children with special needs and we positively celebrate each other's differences.

Respecting the uniqueness of each child helps them to establish their own sense of identity and to be proud of who they are and the things that separate them from everyone else.



Enabling Environment

Children learn best in a dynamic and fulfilling environment

At Whinney Banks, we believe that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning. We provide a rich learning environment where children are able to move in and out of doors regularly and access a broad and balanced range of activities in both. Children are able to independently access resources and activities appropriate to their age and stage of development.

We continually observe and assess children to inform our planning so that activities are planned and resources are changed and enhanced on a daily basis to reflect children's needs and interests.

Children are able to engage in the world around them by spending time outside undertaking a range of physical activities. They are taught about identifying and managing risk. Children are also taken 'out & about' in the community where they develop their language and learning with real life experiences.

To ensure that our environment is dynamic and fulfilling we work with other agencies to seek innovative environmental solutions. We are an eco-friendly setting; modelling and teaching the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle to children.



Learning and Development

Children learn and develop in different ways and at different times.

At Whinney Banks Primary we recognise that children learn and develop in different ways and at different times and believe that play, talking and doing is at the heart of young children's learning and development.

Children's play reflects their wide ranging and varied interests. In their play, children can be inquisitive, creative, questioning and experimental and will learn at their highest level. Playing with their peers is essential for children's development.

These opportunities for play take place both inside and outside of the classroom and are a mixture of child-initiated play and adult led activities linked to the areas of learning (as outlined in the EYFS Statutory Framework. September 2021).

Alongside new experiences, our children are given the time to repeat and practise some activities again and again to develop confidence, forge a deeper understanding and transfer skills and knowledge to their long-term memory.



Positive Relationships

Through positive and secure relationships, children learn to be strong, independent and secure.

In our early years, we provide a positive, nurturing and safe environment where children see excellent role models enabling them to develop secure relationships with adults and other children. Through positive and secure relationships, children learn to be strong, independent and secure.

Positive relationships at Whinney Banks are:

- Warm and give a sense of belonging
- Sensitive and responsive to the child's needs, feelings and interests
- Supportive of a child's own efforts and independence
- Consistent in setting clear boundaries
- Stimulating

Children and families are introduced to their child's teacher/key person and we positively encourage strong links with home to ensure that we respond sensitively to children's needs. We share children's developmental breakthroughs with parents and hold regular open afternoons and parents' events. Parents are invited to attend dance performances, Nativity performances and our end of year 'This is Us' celebration which showcases learning across the 7 areas of learning from across the year.

We follow the guidance in Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education to ensure that appropriate checks are carried out on all staff and visitors. All staff are engaged in reflective practice and are motivated and supported to further raise their skills and qualifications.