**Curriculum Overview**

In Nursery and Reception we follow the Early Years Curriculum, developed around topics and the current interests of the children, which is divided into areas of learning.

**In EYFS the focus is on the Prime Areas of Learning:**

* Communication and language
* Physical development
* Personal, social and emotional development

**And in addition the specific areas of learning:**

* Literacy
* Mathematics
* Understanding the world
* Expressive arts and design

The **Early Years** provision is underpinned by **Characteristics of Effective Learning**

* Playing and exploring
* Active learning
* Creating and thinking critically
* Expressive arts and design

Activities are planned from the children’s interests. Parents are informed in what the theme or topic will be and how you can support at home. Each child will have an individual Learning Journey which records their progress through the Early Years Curriculum.

**The Curriculum at KS1 & 2**

The pupils are taught the subjects of the New National Curriculum which is the legal requirement for all primary schools from September 2014. This includes English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, Religious Education, History, Geography, Physical Education, Design & Technology, Music and Art in KS2, a foreign language (French).

**English**

English is delivered each day and these lessons place emphasis on learning and applying skills in reading and writing. The school primarily uses Oxford Reading Tree reading scheme which is supplemented by Floppy Phonics, Jelly and Bean and Rigby Star phonic books. There is a greater emphasis on spelling and the correct use of grammar and punctuation. Spoken English is also a feature of the new curriculum expectations in English. Opportunities for the application of English skills are also planned across other curriculum areas.

**Phonics and Spelling**

The teaching of phonics is intrinsic to helping children learn to read and write. It is an essential part of the children's learning that begins in Nursery and continues right through the school. The whole school takes part in daily phonics (following Letters and Sounds) or spelling sessions To help your children's progress in phonics and learning to read we suggest that you visit some of the websites below to support their learning:

[**www.phonicsplay.co.uk**](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)

[**www.lettersandsounds.com**](http://www.lettersandsounds.com)

[**www.mrthorne.com**](http://www.mrthorne.com)

The video link below demonstrates the correct pronunciation of sounds:

**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwJx1NSineE**

**Mathematics**

In a similar way Maths aims to give the children a clear understanding of number with an emphasis on mental strategies and problem solving and applying maths knowledge and skills in real life, everyday contexts.

**Science**

Science teaching develops the children’s understanding of the physical and natural world around them, encouraging them to make hypotheses, test their ideas and reach conclusions. There is a focus on practical and problem solving skills covering aspects of biology, chemistry and physics.

**Computing**

There are a range of devices in school – laptops, tablets all part of a networked system linked to the internet. In addition we have Pupils use computers to research and present aspects of their learning across the curriculum. The new computing curriculum enables the children to learn, develop and apply coding skills throughout school. E safety is an essential element of our curriculum, ensuring our children stay safe in an increasingly digitised society. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard and a projector.

**Humanities**

History and Geography are usually taught through a themed learning topic over a term or half term and used as a vehicle to apply basic skills learned in English, and to a lesser extent, maths.

The choice of topics fulfils the statutory requirements of the new National Curriculum and every effort is made to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes excellence and enjoyment.

**Religious Education**

The school follows the agreed Salford Local Authority syllabus for RE, which teaches the children about a range of religious beliefs and customs, with a focus on Christianity. The Methodist Syllabus of work has been incorporated into the school’s scheme of work, ensuring the school is distinctive Methodist.

Assembly is an important part of the school day when we meet together as a community. It is a time when we place emphasis on the development of values and attitudes towards each other and the world around us. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and collective worship should they so wish. If parents do not wish their child to be taught the agreed syllabus or take part in short acts of collective worship then they should inform us in writing. Their child can then be excused and suitable alternative arrangements made.

**Physical Education**

All the children must have the school PE kit for lessons. Parents are asked to provide blue shorts, a white t-shirt and black pumps for these lessons.

Trainers are not suitable for indoor lessons as they are a hazard on the equipment, but they may be worn for outdoor activity. P.E. is part of the National Curriculum and unless there is a medical reason, supported by a note from parents and/or medical practitioner, all children will take part.

Pupils in Year 4 and 5 have swimming lessons at Walkden pool. As with other aspects of PE, a child will only be excused for medical reasons supported by a letter.

**Children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities**
Children’s progress is constantly monitored and assessed and careful records are kept. Occasionally we find that a child does not make the progress we expect. If this were the case parents would be consulted and appropriate steps to support the child taken. Individual targets may be set in consultation with parents. If targets continue not to be met, outside agencies such as Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists or Behaviour Specialists may be called upon for extra support. After further consultation with parents the Local Authority (LA) may have to make a statutory assessment based on specialist advice. The LA may then draw up an Education and Health Care Plan(EHCP). This is written to meet the individual learning needs of the child.

 Parents will always be consulted and kept fully informed at every stage once we have identified that their child could benefit from some extra help. This could be for educational, physical, personal or social needs.