

# THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR ENGLAND

## EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

All children who enter El Alsson School at three or four years of age follow the British EYFS Curriculum until the end of FS2. The Foundation Stage is a distinct phase of education that prepares young children to move on to Key Stage 1 of the National Curriculum.

### THE STRUCTURE OF THE BRITISH PRIMARY CURRICULUM

NAME OF STAGE	YEAR GROUPS	AGE OF PUPILS
The Foundation Stage	FS1 and FS2	3 – 5
Key Stage 1	Y1 and Y2	5 – 7
Key Stage 2	Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6	7 - 11

The Department for Education, in the UK, sets out Learning Objectives for each area of the curriculum and Levels of Attainment that pupils are expected to achieve at the end of each key stage. Using this guidance our teachers are able to ensure that their pupils are equipped with the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to establish a solid foundation on which to build throughout their future school years and beyond.

### AREAS OF LEARNING AND EARLY LEARNING GOALS

The Foundation Stage curriculum now describes **Prime Areas of Learning, Specific Areas of Learning** and their associated **Early Learning Goals**. The New Early Learning Goals (announced by the DfE in Sept 2012) describe the knowledge, skills and understanding which children should have acquired by the end of FS2.

The curriculum underpins all future learning by addressing these 7 critical areas of learning and development.

In addition, it recognises that there are three **Characteristics of Effective Learning** which play a central role in a child's learning and ability to become an effective learner.

#### Prime Areas of Learning

##### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will develop a positive sense of themselves and others.

They will be helped to form positive relationships and develop respect for others.

They will develop good social skills and learn how to manage their feelings.

They will develop an understanding of appropriate behavior in groups and develop confidence in their own abilities.

##### Physical Development

Children will have opportunities to be active and interactive.

They will develop their coordination, control and movement.

They will be helped to understand the importance of physical activity and will learn to make healthy choices in relation to food.

##### Communication and Language

Children will be given opportunities to experience a rich language environment.

They will develop confidence and skills in expressing themselves.

They will have opportunities to speak and listen in a range of situations.

## **Specific Areas of Learning**

### **Literacy**

Children will be encouraged to link sounds and letters to begin to read and write. They will have access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

### **Mathematics**

Children will have opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers.

They will start calculating simple addition and subtraction problems.

They will learn to describe shapes, spaces and measures.

### **Understanding the World**

Children will be guided to make sense of their physical world and their community.

They will have opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

Children will explore and be encouraged to play with a wide range of media and materials.

They will be provided with opportunities and encouragement to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in Art, Music, Movement, Dance, Role-play, Design and Technology.

## **Characteristics of Effective Learning**

**Playing and Exploring** – engagement

**Active Learning** – motivation

**Creating & thinking critically** - thinking

### **ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING**

Pupils' progress is monitored through a process of continual teacher-assessment, using the EYFS Profile. At the end of each term parents receive written reports and are invited to discuss these at the following Parent -Teacher Days. These reports will indicate progress within each Area of Learning, development of the Characteristics of Effective Learning and achievement of the Early Learning Goals.