St Peter's Preschool

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum

For Children Aged 2–4 Years

Welcome to St Peter's Preschool

At St Peter's Preschool, we provide a warm, nurturing and inspiring environment where children aged 2–4 grow in confidence, independence and curiosity.

Our curriculum follows the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework (2023)** and is designed to build strong foundations for lifelong learning.

We believe children learn best through:

- Secure relationships
- Play-based learning
- Exploration and discovery
- Positive encouragement
- Real-life experiences

Our aim is for every child to leave preschool happy, confident and well-prepared for the next stage of their learning journey.

The Three Prime Areas of Learning

The Prime Areas are fundamental in supporting children's development and underpin all future learning.

Communication and Language

Developing spoken language is at the heart of everything we do.

At preschool, your child will:

- Learn new vocabulary every day
- Enjoy songs, rhymes and stories
- Take part in conversations

- Ask and answer questions
- Learn to listen carefully
- Express their thoughts, ideas and feelings

We support this by:

- Talking with children throughout the day
- Reading and sharing stories daily
- Singing familiar nursery rhymes
- Modelling clear, rich language
- Encouraging children to share their ideas

By the time children leave us, they are confident communicators, ready to access Reception learning.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We help children feel safe, valued and understood.

Your child will learn to:

- Build positive friendships
- Take turns and share
- Recognise and talk about feelings
- Follow routines
- Develop independence
- Solve simple problems with support

We place strong importance on:

- A secure key person relationship
- Emotion coaching
- Positive behaviour guidance
- Celebrating diversity and inclusion
- Supporting independence in daily routines

Children leave preschool emotionally secure, resilient and socially confident.

Physical Development

Physical activity supports healthy growth, coordination and brain development.

Children take part in:

- Daily outdoor play in all weathers
- Climbing, balancing and running
- Ball games and obstacle courses
- Fine motor activities (cutting, threading, mark-making)
- Dough Disco and finger-strengthening activities

They also learn to:

- Dress and undress independently
- Manage toileting
- Wash hands effectively
- Use tools safely (scissors, pencils, paintbrushes)

We encourage children to take safe risks and develop physical confidence.

The Specific Areas of Learning

Literacy – Building a Love of Reading

We foster a lifelong love of books and stories.

Children will:

- Share stories daily
- Retell familiar stories in play
- Join in with rhymes and repeated phrases
- Recognise their name
- Begin to recognise some letters
- Make marks and begin early writing

We prioritise enjoyment and engagement first, building strong foundations for phonics and reading in Reception.

Mathematics – Early Number and Problem Solving

Children learn mathematics through play and everyday routines.

Children will:

- Count during songs and activities
- Recognise small quantities
- Compare amounts (more/fewer)
- Explore shapes, space and patterns
- Use mathematical language such as big, small, under and behind

We build confidence in number and problem solving through practical, hands-on experiences.

Understanding the World

Children explore their community and the wider world around them.

Children will:

- Learn about seasons and weather
- Explore nature and outdoor environments
- Talk about family traditions and experiences
- Celebrate cultural events
- Use simple technology appropriately

We encourage curiosity, questioning and a growing understanding of the world they live in.

Expressive Arts and Design

Creativity is a vital part of children's development.

Children enjoy:

- Singing and music
- Role-play and imaginative play

- Painting, drawing and model-making
- Exploring colour, texture and materials
- Moving rhythmically to music

We provide open-ended resources that allow children to express their own ideas, develop imagination and think creatively.

Sustainability – Caring for Our World

At St Peter's Preschool, we believe that caring for the environment begins in the early years. We gently introduce children to the understanding that their actions matter and that we all share responsibility for looking after our world. These experiences support children's developing sense of responsibility, cause and effect, and respect for their environment.

Through everyday experiences, children learn to:

- Care for plants and living things
- Respect nature and outdoor spaces
- Reduce waste and recycle materials
- Turn off taps and lights to conserve resources
- Reuse and repurpose materials in creative play
- Keep our classroom and outdoor areas tidy

Sustainability is woven into daily routines and play. Children explore nature in all seasons, take part in gardening activities, use recycled and open-ended materials in their learning, and talk about where food comes from. We observe changes in weather and encourage curiosity about the natural world.

By nurturing respect, responsibility and care for the environment, we help children develop positive habits that support a sustainable future. We want children to understand that even small actions can make a meaningful difference.

Nutrition – Supporting Healthy Eating Habits

At St Peter's Preschool, we recognise that good nutrition plays a vital role in children's growth, development, wellbeing and lifelong health.

In line with updated government guidance, early years providers are required to '**have regard to the EYFS nutrition guidance'**, which emphasises that meals, snacks and drinks provided in the setting should be healthy, balanced and nutritious, and appropriate for children's needs.

We aim to:

- Provide meals and snacks that offer balanced nutrition and a wide variety of foods
- Encourage positive eating habits and familiarity with healthy choices
- Support children to try new foods and textures in a relaxed, social environment
- Offer milk and water as the primary drinks at snack and meal times
- Consider individual dietary needs, including allergies, cultural preferences and SEND requirements

Children learn about food through everyday routines and positive role modelling. We encourage good table manners, conversation at mealtimes, and support children to recognise their own hunger and fullness cues.

Healthy eating links closely with our wider curriculum goals, supporting physical development, independence and understanding of the world, and helping children establish habits that promote long-term wellbeing.

How We Teach

We support your child through:

- A secure key person system
- A language-rich environment
- Clear and consistent daily routines
- Child-led play and exploration
- Carefully planned adult-guided experiences
- Meaningful outdoor learning
- Strong partnerships with parents and carers

We work closely with families to support each child's individual next steps in learning and development.

Our approach reflects the EYFS principles and promotes the **Characteristics of Effective Learning**, supporting children to play and explore, stay motivated through active learning, and develop their own ideas through creating and thinking critically.

Safeguarding and promoting children's welfare is our highest priority. We maintain a safe, secure environment and follow robust safeguarding procedures to ensure every child feels protected, valued and supported to thrive.

We are committed to inclusive practice and ensure that children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) receive appropriate support so that every child can achieve their full potential.

Assessment

We monitor children's progress through:

- Ongoing daily observations
- Conversations and partnership working with parents
- Termly next step reports
- The statutory two-year-old progress check (where applicable)
- Sharing information with Reception teachers to support smooth transitions

Assessment at St Peter's Preschool is supportive and purposeful — focused on understanding each child's development and helping them thrive.

Our Promise

By the time children leave St Peter's Preschool, they are:

- Confident communicators
- Independent in self-care
- Emotionally secure and resilient
- Physically confident
- Building positive friendships
- Ready for the expectations of Reception