



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

'Serving the Community'



Early Years Foundation Stage - *'In the Moment Planning'*

Our Foundation Stage, (Nursery and Reception) largely follow our children's interests daily. Our reflective practitioners work alongside our children in a play-based environment to ensure the best outcomes for all our pupils. We do this primarily through our "In the moment planning".

The EYFS explicitly states that *"Practitioners must consider the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child in their care and must use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child in all of the areas of learning and development. Planning in the moment fully allows this to happen and encourages the children to pursue their own interests."* Child-led learning is widely regarded as one of the most effective ways of doing this, while in the moment planning is one of the most effective ways to introduce child-led learning.

Child-led learning is particularly effective because it means children are engaged and involved. This is linked to improved brain development in children. When children show high levels of involvement, that is when there is progress and development occurring – when the brain is at its most active. High level involvement occurs most often when children are able to pursue their own interests in an enabling environment supported our skilled practitioners.

Planning 'in the moment' is all about seizing the moment for our children to progress. Based on what the children are already deeply involved in, this way of planning relies on our skilled practitioners using quality interactions to draw out the children's knowledge and build on it there and then. This means that our practitioners have the skills to be able to see the 'teachable moment' from the child's perspective and be skilled enough to know when to intervene and when to stand back and observe.

Planning in the moment is all about capturing this moment of engagement and letting the child lead and take ownership of their learning and attainment. We work in this way as young children experience and learn in the here and now, not storing up their questions until tomorrow or next week.

The National Strategies document states: *"It is in the moment of curiosity, puzzlement, effort or interest – the 'teachable moment' – that the skilful adult makes a difference."*

Children have a natural desire to learn and explore. We encourage our children to find their own interests, and use this to enhance and build upon their existing knowledge.

P. Mottram
EYFS Lead



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We break this process down into three stages:

- **The Child's Spark** – The child first shows an interest in something. There is an air of fascination around the object/subject and concentration in what they are now doing.
- **The Teachable Moment** – Our practitioner notices this and approaches the child. This is our opportunity to extend their interest, by asking open-ended questions and considering ways to apply this interest to other options within the environment.
- **The Documentation** – Afterwards, our practitioners document the observation, including 'the spark', the teachable moment and the child's next steps, both through a specific observation and on a working planning wall. This helps our practitioners map out that child's interests, and plan an environment that works for them.

By using this cycle on a moment-by-moment basis, our practitioners are aware and alert of individual children through observation, continuously reflecting about what it tells us about the child's thinking and therefore their ongoing assessment and attainment, and are always ready to respond by using appropriate strategies at the right moment to support our children's well-being and learning, i.e. planning for the next moment.

This way of planning means that our learning environment (indoor and outdoor) is crucial and is constantly reviewed and adapted to ensure that our children have a deep level of involvement in their activity. The resources in each area are continuously reviewed to ensure they are plentiful and engaging.

Our 'In the Moment' planning is our opportunity to continually document and record areas of interest, changes in the environment, and its reason. These next steps reflect current interests resulting in an environment enhanced with purposeful resources that are interesting, intriguing and is an evolving place for children to develop.