



WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Giles Brook School.

This pack aims to help you and your child to settle into our school. At Giles Brook we ensure all children feel included, secure and valued. We are a friendly, open and supportive school, and aim to develop an effective partnership with parents. Together we want to make your child's time in our school happy and successful. The children are at the heart of what we do and decisions are made to ensure each child has equal opportunities.

The Foundation Stage practitioners encourage parents to talk to us freely in the mornings or at the end of the school day and this practice continues throughout the school. If at any time you have any concerns about your child, please talk to a Foundation Stage practitioner who will be more than happy to help you.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child as they embark on their school journey.

Our Aims

The Foundation Stage is a distinct stage and builds the foundations for all future learning. The children who attend Giles Brook School will have a wide range of opportunities and experiences. The children will bring their own skills and interests to the setting which we will use to support their development. We encourage all children at Giles Brook to become independent learners and aim to provide a well-planned and resourced curriculum. This allows us to take their learning forward from their individual starting point. We want all of our children to succeed in an atmosphere where they feel valued and cared for.





Giles Brook School 'Learning at the heart of our community'

Early Years Vision

At Giles Brook School the children are at the core of the school's vision. Within the Early Years Team, we consistently drive to support this; alongside incorporating fundamental philosophies to Early Years.

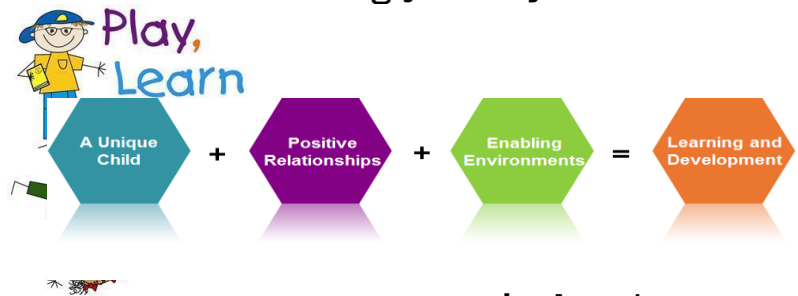
It is our aim as an Early Years team that we provide environments both in our Nursery and Reception classes to support children, and families, at the beginning of their learning journey. The children come first in an understanding, nurturing, caring and safe environment. We aspire to equip pupils with the tools to continue their journey at Giles Brook and within their education. Providing a challenging, yet encouraging, fun and inspiring environment is fundamental in establishing resilient and strong individual creative learners in a well-rounded way. Learning in the Early Years will happen through a multitude of activities both inside and out. Our children have a voice and are listened to which contributes to their well-being and understanding of a range of social, economic and individual needs.

Home visits help facilitate positive and collaborative relationships with the parents and families of our children. This creates a strong partnership and driving force to develop each individual child holistically; without a ceiling on what

they can achieve in the Early Years. These relationships also allow our whole team to contribute to independence and determination of our children with a growth mindset for learning and exploration. We share our knowledge with families to support and guide each child in their development.

Our strong team vision and parental engagement is imperative to our aspiration of creating 'learning at the heart of the community'. Children will leave our Early Years classes ready for the challenges of their continued learning journey.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum



The Foundation Stage curriculum has undergone a recent reform and some of the headings may be different if you have previously had a child attend school. The curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning and they are divided into aspects within that area.

PRIME areas of learning...

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Self- regulation

Managing self

Building relationships.

- Communication and Language

Listening, attention and understanding

Speaking

- Physical Development

Gross Motor Skills

Fine Motor Skills

A secure development in these areas of learning allow the children to access the specific areas of learning with more ease.

SPECIFIC areas of learning...

➤ Literacy

Comprehension

Word Reading

Writing

➤ Maths

Number

Numerical Patterns

➤ Understanding the World

Past and Present

People, Culture and Communities

The Natural World

➤ Expressive Arts and Design

Creating with materials

Being imaginative and expressive



These areas of learning all link together and opportunities are provided to develop the whole child within these interdependent strands.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Learning how to work and play in a co-operative manner. Developing skills to work as a group and develop personal and moral values. Learning to value and understand themselves as well as others.



Communication and Language

This aspect of the curriculum is developed through all of our provision. We seek to allow all children to have the opportunities to develop their communication skills in a range of situations from small group work to their independent learning and exploration.



Physical Development

Learning a range of physical skills firstly on a large scale before developing smaller movements such as holding a pencil. The skills we will develop aim to increase control, mobility, awareness of space and manipulative skills; both indoors and outdoors. This aspect also seeks to develop an understanding of how to look after their own bodies and how to keep themselves safe.

Children will have access to:

- Climbing apparatus during PE sessions- balancing and risk taking
- Playground area- negotiating space

- Using small apparatus e.g. bats and balls- increasing control
- Chalk and chalkboards- drawing lines and circles and developing a pencil grip

These are just a handful of the opportunities that will be available.

Literacy

This aspect is divided into Comprehension, Word Reading and Writing. We seek to develop the children's love of reading by encouraging them to share a wide range of stories and books. We will allow the children to access rhymes, fiction and non-fiction books. When children are exposed to sharing picture books and develop a love for books then they will begin to understand the meaning of text and start to learn familiar words and sentences. The comprehension and understanding of each child is paramount in developing their reading skills and ensuring they have a true understanding and meaning of stories is vital to creating a strong foundation for reading in the future. The children will develop their mark-making skills before transferring these to letters. Opportunities to develop writing for different purposes will be available in various areas of the classroom, for example, writing a list in the Home Corner.



We follow the ELS (Essential Letters and Sounds) phonics scheme and during daily phonics sessions we will be learning lots of new graphemes.

Maths

Throughout their time in Reception at Giles Brook the children's mathematical understanding will be developed and extended through small group and whole class teaching. This will be supported through a wide variety of practical activities. We will use practical apparatus alongside the use of the interactive whiteboard. This also acts as a valuable

reinforcement for the children to show how ICT can support their own learning.

We aim to provide opportunities where the children can explore, enjoy, learn, talk about and put into practise their developing mathematical understanding. Finding out about and working with numbers, counting, sorting and matching is integral to developing the children's individual knowledge.

Children will use their skills to solve problems and generate new questions alongside making connections across other areas of learning and development.

The children will be given the opportunity to discover new concepts, ideas and language in their independent learning. We aim to make connections to real-life situations for the children.



Understanding the World

The children will be supported in developing the knowledge, skills, and understanding that help them to make sense of the world. Their learning will be supported through offering opportunities for them to encounter creatures, plants, people, and objects in their natural environment and in real-life situations.

We will teach the children about their own and others' cultures in order to celebrate similarities and differences in our diverse society. Our children will be taught to value and respect every individual. We will also provide opportunities to make comparisons between the past and present day using familiar topics.



Expressive Arts and Design

We will be singing a range of rhymes and songs. We encourage the children to match movements to music and express themselves independently. We encourage the use of imagination throughout a range of activities.

Over the course of the year we will use percussion instruments to explore different sounds.

This aspect also develops the use of children's imagination through stories, role-playing, imaginative play, dance, music, design and art.

Creativity is about taking risks and making connections throughout independent learning. The children at Giles Brook are encouraged to explore their own ideas, express themselves, transform objects using media, paint, scissors etc.

The children are encouraged to respond to what they see, hear and experience through their senses. Each child will respond as an individual and will represent their experiences in a unique and valuable way.





Learning through play

Well planned play is an important way in which all young children learn with enjoyment and challenge. In our Reception environment the children are encouraged to learn and explore in a range of areas. Children will be encouraged to extend their own learning and practitioners will develop the children's individual next steps. Our environment is setup in explicit zones to enable the children to freely access opportunities to develop their learning across the curriculum.

The children will:

- explore and act out experiences to help them make sense of the world
- practise and build up ideas, concepts and skills
- learn how to control feelings and begin to understand the need for rules
- be alone, work alongside, or co-operate with others
- take risks and make mistakes
- think creatively and imaginatively
- communicate with others



Behaviour Policy

At Giles Brook all of the children are encouraged to treat each other with respect and value each individual's feelings. We use Restorative Practice principles throughout the school.

In the Foundation Stage we encourage all children to:

- ❖ Take turns and develop an understanding of how to facilitate this with their peers
- ❖ Accept instruction and behave in appropriate ways
- ❖ Express their feelings in appropriate ways
- ❖ Show respect for the needs and feelings of others
- ❖ Show respect for materials, equipment, their work and the work of others
- ❖ Be honest

The children will become familiar with our school's values which form the basis of our behaviour policy.

In an instance where a child has needed support we will have a discussion to reflect upon a wrong choice they may have made and the impact this has had on others. This links to the Restorative Practice principles.

The main principles are:

- Emphasis on building social connections

- A focus on the language used by adults
- Commitment to include wider relationships e.g. with families and the communities

Role of the adults in school:

- Demonstrate respect for others AND self-respect
- Promote listening and understanding
- Build opportunities for constructive restorative conversations
- Allow a voice for everyone in a range of situations

Forest Schools

We are delighted to offer Forest School sessions to our children in Reception. The children attend weekly sessions.



Forest Schools is an inspirational learning process that is centred around the child. It offers opportunities for holistic growth through regular sessions, supporting play, exploration and supported risk taking. It develops confidence and self esteem through learner inspired, hands on experiences in a natural setting. The process enables and supports more than knowledge gathering, it helps learners develop socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically and intellectually. The style of learning is particularly beneficial to our children's well being, and given the last few years, this is of paramount importance to us at Giles Brook. We hope that this provision will enable every child to expand on their abilities by solving real world issues, building self esteem and resilience.



General Information

At Giles Brook we have two Reception classes with 30 children in each.

We have the Butterflies Class and the Ladybirds Class



On a daily basis each class will have a class teacher and teaching assistant.

There may be other members of staff dependent on the individual needs of children.

The children all explore the main areas of provision together with opportunities to explore the whole curriculum. We also have a secure outdoor area that is used every day and in all weathers. Please could you provide suitable outdoor clothing for your child that can remain in school. It is vital the children have **waterproof trousers or an all-in-one waterproof suit and wellies.** We can then ensure that the children will have full access to a range of activities regardless of the weather within in our learning environment and when we go on walks in the local area.



The School Day

The doors open at **8:40am**. It is incredibly important children arrive at school in time to allow them to settle before the register.

The children will have their daily phonics lesson at 9.00am as a whole class in the morning before independently learning and exploring in the area. During this time children will carry out activities in small groups with adults.

The children in Reception will have a weekly indoor PE session. We will also visit the library each week for story times and to choose a library book to take home.

All of the children eat together in the hall regardless if they have a packed lunch or school dinner. Once they have finished all the children will play on the playground together.

The afternoon session continues after a whole class input and follows the same format as the morning.

The school day ends at **3:10pm**.

You must let us know in advance (in person or via a written or telephone message) if anyone else is collecting your child. We have your child's safety in mind at all times.

Clothing

Please make sure that you name every item of your child's school clothing and then if something is mislaid it can easily be returned.

Possessions

Toys and trinkets can easily be mislaid when at school so please try to discourage your child from bringing them to school. If your child has a comforter they need whilst settling then we are happy for them to bring it at the beginning of the school year.



Newsletters

Newsletters are sent home on a regular basis via email and they are also published on our website. Please read them, they are important as they tell you the activities your child will be engaged in at school and information about school events.

Absence

Please telephone school before 9:30am. Do not send sick children to school. If your child has vomited or had diarrhoea, they MUST stay at home for the following 48 hours. This is to prevent the spreading of illnesses.



Snack time

The children have independent access to the 'Snack and Chat' table during the school day. They can help themselves to a piece of fruit, pour a cup of water or have their milk if you request for them to receive it. This encourages healthy eating habits which we feel strongly about at Giles Brook. We also ask for you to send a healthy snack with your child which they can have at the end of the day during story time. The children can place their snack into their tray when they arrive in the morning.

Each child will have their own tray and peg to keep their belongings.

This is a brief overview of Reception at Giles Brook School and we will have lots of further opportunities for you to share in your child's learning journey. We will have an ELS, reading meeting, parent's evenings, termly reports and curriculum evenings to aid the information provided to you.

We truly look forward to sharing in your child's learning journey at Giles Brook; whether this is continued from our Nursery or the very start of a new journey for your child.