

*"We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing"*

*George Bernard Shaw*

### **Why do Children need to play?**

**It enables them to.....**

- Explore, develop and represent learning experiences that help them make sense of the world around them
- Learn how to control impulses and understand the need for rules and boundaries
- Practise and build up ideas, concepts and skills
- Be alone and be alongside others
- Take risks and make mistakes
- Think creatively and imaginatively
- Investigate and solve problems

# The Early Years Foundation Stage at Leeming RAF CP School



## **The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

The Early Years Foundation Stage covers the age group from birth to five and continues until the end of your child's first year at School.

The key principles of the EYFS are:

- A Unique Child - Every child is a competent learner who can be resilient, capable and confident.
- Positive Relationships - Independent learning is based on the secure relationships with children, teachers and parents.
- Enabling Environments - A stimulating environment plays a key role in a child's development.
- Learning and Development - Children learn in different ways and at different rates.

The EYFS states that young children learn best through play and first hand experiences. Therefore we provide a range of stimulating activities and experiences to help them develop new skills. The current EYFS is split up into Early Learning Goals in the following areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

## **Observational Assessment**

Assessment in the EYFS occurs daily and in everything that your child does. The staff are highly effective in observing your child, understanding the learning taking place, evaluating this learning and planning their next steps. The observations play a

key part in a flexible planning process. This assessment and target setting occurs on an individual basis and is highly personalised. The observations are kept in your child's Learning Journey Book and support the staff in completing your child's EYFS Profile at the end of the school year.

## **Adult Led Activities**

Adult led activities occur daily and are led by highly skilled staff. In order to ensure that all children make progress at their own level, most adult led groups take place in small groups. Some sessions where appropriate are for the whole class. Some of the types of adult led groups are as follows:

- Phonics
- Maths
- Reading and writing
- Talk based sessions, thinking skills
- Social skills
- PE
- Music
- Story

## **Parental Involvement**

Some of the key ways to become involved in your child's learning are as follows:

- Look at your child's Learning Journey regularly and make any comments on the comment sheet
- Return to school the 'notes from home' when your child achieves a key landmark at home
- Hear your child read on a regularly basis and comment in the home/school book
- Talk to your child about their learning and experiences at school
- Talk to the teachers if you have any questions or concerns