

Pilton Pre-school Philosophy and Aims

We believe that each child is unique, special and full of potential. Therefore, we strive to inspire in all a sense of;

Confidence **Creativity** **Critical thinking** **Compassion**
Character **Community**

We aim to achieve this by;

- Building trusting relationships with parents/carers and families in order to support the development of secure attachments between children and key persons, enabling children to settle quickly and enjoy making the most of the Pre-school environment.
- Encouraging self expression through a range of media, activities and events including singing, signing, dance, art and physical activity as well as through speech and communication.
- Providing a play based, fun and often quirky educationally, physically and mentally stimulating programme - following the Early Years Foundation Stage, children's interests, their fascinations, enjoyments and potential 'Next Steps'.
- Providing an environment where children feel valued, respected, and free to make their own choices. Supporting children to communicate and negotiate with peers and develop an awareness of others and their needs, as well as being able to identify and communicate their own needs.
- Nurturing each child's unique personality to shine with the support of caring, inspiring and creative adults in an environment where they feel safe, secure and able to be themselves.
- Exploring a culturally diverse curriculum which takes into account and encourages the uniqueness of children and families, supporting opportunities for children to interact with community projects both inside and outside of the setting and encouraging the community to engage with and support the setting with a range of events and activities.

Principles of the EYFS:

Learning and development

All areas of learning and development are covered through our diverse range of activities and interactions. We use the 'Letters and Sounds' programme to guide activities which support the development and understanding of speech, sounds and language. No resource is out of bounds when it comes to children's learning. We make the most of everyday recycled materials as well as specifically tailored equipment. But by far the biggest resource for learning is the imagination. With this you can create just about anything and inspire the most magical learning journeys.

Positive relationships

Nurturing, inspiring, creative staff enjoy every minute of every day. Okay, so the cleaning up is not always as fun but we love what we do so it doesn't feel like work. We aim to build safe and trusting relationships with the children and operate a 'Key Person' system so that they feel confident to explore, learn, make friends and enjoy being themselves. We work with parents, families and the wider community, encouraging people into the setting to support our diverse programme and to encourage positive working relationships within the community. We recognise parents and families are children's first and most enduring educators and so seek advice on what we can do to best meet individual needs.

Enabling environments

Our environment is designed to give the children access to a wide range of resources and learning opportunities both inside and out. We are not afraid of a little rain and make full use of the beautiful outdoor area in all weathers. A balance of adult led, and child-initiated activities helps to support different styles of learning and provides children with choice. We get together every month to plan activities and provision based on the children's current interests, fascinations, skills and 'next steps'. We endeavour to create an environment that is reassuring, comforting and supportive of all, as well as stimulating, exciting and enjoyable.

A unique child

All children develop at different rates and have unique learning styles, interests and preferences. We take all this into account when planning experiences, play and provision. Every effort is made to acknowledge children's attempts as well as triumphs. We enjoy sharing these with children, families and practitioners in order to encourage children to be proud of their efforts and achievements equally. We want each child's uniqueness to shine and we love seeing children's individual personalities grow as they build relationships, learn new skills and enjoy being at Pre-school.

In following these aims we hope that children at Pilton Pre-school will develop a positive attitude towards themselves and others; develop a sense of well-being and develop positive dispositions to lifelong learning. Most importantly we want children to have lots of fun as they fulfil their potential and become confident, capable learners.