

A place to create and celebrate a community of learning

Madeley Nursery School

PRINCIPLES – VALUES - AIMS



Learning and teaching at Madeley Nursery School is based on deeply held principles.

These are explored, questioned, tested and our understanding developed on an on-going basis.

The school is a place of citizenship - being part of a strong community

Our school is an integral part of the community. It is a place where every child, family and educator has both a right and responsibility to contribute to and support their community. *We define community as being both immediately located around the school and stretching out to include the wider global community. We believe that citizenship encompasses people and cultures as well as environments and ecologies. That as citizens, children should be creators of culture not passive consumers.*

The school is a place of research

Working together to question and improve, our school is a place where children, families and educators work together to improve the quality of learning and teaching experiences, therefore promoting high aspirations, levels of well-being, good dispositions and achievement for all. *We believe that a researching school relies on developing a 'listening pedagogy, where all protagonists collaborate and co-operate in reflective dialogue, respecting and encouraging different opinions and ideas, being open to change and innovation.*

The school is a place of partnership with children and families

We consider that a genuine, respectful and active partnership between children, their families and the school are central to successful learning. *This principle is interrelated and underpins the other school principles and reflects our relational and community ethos. Partnership involves parents, families and staff working together to benefit children in relationships where each recognises, respects and values what the other does and says. Partnership involves responsibility on both sides.*

The school is a place where every child is viewed as competent and full of potential

All children have an innate ability to learn from birth. We believe that every child has an incredible capacity to learn and develop through engagement with others and with the world. *This principle has inclusion and diversity at its heart and is made visible through the pedagogical approaches of the school. Where learning is seen as crossing the borders that separately define disciplines, curriculum and concepts.*

Through these we promote the following values for all members of the Nursery community.

- ❖ **Prosocial behaviours** of sharing (dividing up or bestowing), helping (acts of kindness, rescuing, removing distress), and cooperation (working together to reach a goal) showing sympathy, showing positive verbal and physical contact, showing concern, taking the perspective of another person, cooperating and social problem-solving that enable children to be in dynamic interactions with other children and adults.

- ❖ **Self-regulation** which is the ability to monitor and control our own behaviour, emotions, or thoughts, altering them in accordance with the demands of the situation.
- ❖ **Collaboration** that is crucial to successful, independent learning. Through effective collaboration we begin to understand the importance of being reflective, of cooperation, of taking turns, of respecting difference and diversity, of friendship, of being fair, of sensitive listening, active discussion, and of unity.
- ❖ **Resilience and perseverance** to be determined to succeed, setting a goal and sticking to it. We aim to foster a willingness to take risks and an acceptance of failure. We take positives from all that we do and learn from our mistakes. We are responsible for our own learning and develop high self-esteem.
- ❖ **Equality** incorporates aspects of tolerance, inclusion and diversity. We expect children to have an awareness of the wider world, to celebrate difference and respect the rights of all individuals, both in the school community and beyond.
- ❖ **Compassion** is about kindness and concern, about friendship and love, about communicating effectively and understanding the needs of others. Through our focus on this value we expect to develop thoughtful, considerate children who are empathetic, respectful and kind.
- ❖ **Creativity and innovation** is the value through which we hope to inspire children to appreciate their uniqueness, to be imaginative and inquisitive. We aim to nurture originality and dynamism in meaning-making.
- ❖ **Critical thinking** using purposeful judgment which results in interpretation, analysis, evaluation, and inference and include qualities, concepts, and processes such as creativity, imagination, discovery, reflection, empathy, connecting knowing, subjectivity, ambiguity, and inconclusiveness.
- ❖ **Confidence** to explore as active learners and to be adventurous, curious and confident to take risks when experiencing new things.
- ❖ **Ecological awareness and sensitivity** by exploring the world to develop curiosity and respect for nature and a love for the outdoors.
- ❖ **Effective communication** that enables children to express themselves, listen and respond to the ideas and proposals of others. Independence and self-organisation to be able to work with other children, not always seeking or needing the affirmation or direction of adults.

What are the aims of the Nursery?

Our aim is to create and celebrate a community of learning where there are endless possibilities to discover together through curiosity, creativity and play.

- ❖ Providing a safe, secure and stimulating place in which children and adults (staff, parents / carers and families) can learn together with confidence and enjoyment.
- ❖ Enabling children and adults to engage deeply with learning allowing them to reach their full potential.
- ❖ Offering opportunities for children to learn as individuals and as part of a group in developmentally appropriate ways.
- ❖ Fostering creativity and curiosity, and offering experiences which will help children develop understanding and respect about the world in which they live.
- ❖ Encouraging children to express their thoughts, feelings and ideas in a variety of ways, developing critical thinking.
- ❖ Promoting children's well-being and safeguarding supporting children to have a positive self-image.
- ❖ Developing children's understanding of the needs and views of others.
- ❖ Valuing inclusion, equality, democracy honesty, fairness and justice whilst challenging discrimination reflecting international human rights standards as expressed in the UN

Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, and the Human Rights Act 1998.

At Nursery we aim to give your child a broad educational experience which celebrates the richness and diversity of the society in which we live.

We are opposed to racism or racist behaviour and will challenge instances of this should they occur.

We believe that girls and boys have an equal right to develop the skills they will need in order to live a full and happy life.

We believe that a person's worth as a member of society is not related to ethnicity, race, religion, social class, physical or intellectual ability, sexual orientation or gender identity and promote this view in our work with children and families.

What is the philosophy about how young children learn and develop?

We believe that young children are powerful learners; driven by curiosity, creativity and theories about the world, they should learn in and outdoors every day.

All children have potential.

Learning deepens when children use many expressive methods to explore their ideas and deepen their inquiries.

We believe that children learn best by actively involving themselves in an experience, taking appropriate healthy risks.

This 'hands on' experience at Nursery involves the children in a variety of direct experiences which, developed over time as projects, will contribute to their development as individuals and members of a group.

All children are encouraged to take a measure of responsibility for their own learning. As adults we respect their work and value the contributions they make and the knowledge they bring to the activities. We believe there is a need to listen carefully to children to establish where they are in their understanding in order to make the most appropriate response to their particular needs.

We endeavour to provide a framework in which children can be independent and have some autonomy within Nursery. We encourage children to become thinkers, decision makers and problem solvers as well as fostering an awareness of how their actions may affect others. The staff in Nursery are engaged in professional development and training through research and dialogue with colleagues from across the country and abroad, particularly the Reggio Emilia preschools in northern Italy.

Knowledgeable, reflective educators are essential to construct, support and guide learning with children. All educators (teachers and nursery nurses) have excellent observation skills; they are active listeners who carefully review their observations to decide next steps in learning.