

# The Canterbury Academy Trust

## Schools for all the Talents



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*In partnership with Simon Langton  Grammar School for Boys to provide a grammar school band for boys and girls in a comprehensive school for all the talents*

### **Foundation Stage**

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, the following principles underpin and guide the work of all the practitioners. They are grouped into four distinct but complementary themes:

- A Unique Child
- Positive Relationships
- Enabling Environments
- Learning and Development

Effective practice in the Early Years Foundation Stage is built on these four guiding themes. They provide a context for the requirements and describe how the practitioners should support the development, learning and care of young children.

A Unique Child recognises that every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. The commitments are focused around development, inclusion, safety, and health and well-being.

Positive Relationships describes how children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person. The commitments are focused around respect, partnership with parents, supporting learning, and the role of the key person.

Enabling Environments explains that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning. The commitments are focused around observation, assessment and planning, support for every child, the learning environment, and the wider context – transitions, continuity, and multi-agency working.

Learning and Development recognises that children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates, and that all areas of learning and development are equally important and interconnected.

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape the planning and delivery of all learning in the early year's classroom.

The 3 Prime Areas are fundamentally the underpinning that work together to support development in all other areas:

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional
- Physical Development

The 4 Specific Areas which are the essential skills and knowledge:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

A normal day in the Foundation Stage classroom will include learning from all areas of the curriculum where children are given the opportunity to focus on their strengths. For part of the day, the children participate in activities which they initiate themselves, with adult support where this is appropriate. At other times the children will participate in activities with a specific

focus, led by the teacher or other adult. These activities are differentiated for individuals or small groups, taking in to account the stage of the children's development. Again, these activities are based on play, which is the main medium for learning in the Foundation Stage.

Children relate to people and things through the different characteristics of learning:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

Adults in the Foundation Stage will provide enabling environments and make observations across all areas that support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner.