**Early Years at Gerrans School**

The Early Years Foundation Stage at Gerrans School is a busy, happy and exciting place. Children begin their school journey in our warm and caring environment where we focus on the development of the whole child and promote a love of learning. We work collaboratively with parents to ensure the best outcomes for their children and our EYFS staff are passionate about ensuring all children reach their potential.

**INTENT**

We follow the statutory framework and guidance and use our professional knowledge and experience to observe, plan and teach.

We provide a broad and balanced Early Years Curriculum based on first hand experiences and purposeful interactions through carefully planned adult led or child initiated activities. We also ensure that we are providing our children with the skills and attitudes they will need as they progress into Key Stage 1.

* We aim to make every child’s first experience of school happy, positive and fun.
* We aim to foster a love of learning and develop inquiring minds.
* We aim to instil independence, resilience and confidence.
* We aim to promote emotional wellbeing
* We aim to build positive relationships and work in partnership with families, carers and professionals to support every child in their learning journey.

**IMPLEMENT**

Teaching in the EYFS

* Has a carefully planned curriculum which aims for all children to achieve the Early Learning Goals by the end of the EYFS.
* Involves creating adult and child-initiated opportunities that will encourage children to explore, create, investigate, rehearse, practise, repeat and discover.
* Uses a multi-sensory, play-based approach.
* Shows awareness of the different ways that children develop and learn.
* Has a high expectation of children’s behaviour and attainment.
* Recognises the importance of emotional wellbeing.

Learning in the EYFS

* We ensure that prior learning and development is valued and the transition into school is supported.
* We encourage cross curricular links to ensure a positive transition into Key Stage 1 by building on previous experiences and planning those for the future.

In the EYFS children are learning when they:

* Collaborate and learn from one another through shared experiences.
* Are supported to set their own challenges in both the physical environment and their learning.
* Access resources independently
* Use their senses to explore and investigate
* Develop perseverance and positive attitudes to learning

Play in the EYFS

We highly value play, as for young children, it is a vital tool for learning. Through play, children develop and explore, helping them to make sense of the world. They practise and develop ideas, communicate with adults and peers, learn self-control and the need for rules, thereby developing emotional resilience and self-regulation. Children have the opportunity to think creatively and problem solve alongside others.

Inclusion in the EYFS

The EYFS Curriculum

Assessment in the EYFS

Working with parents and carers

The environment and resources in the EYFS

**IMPACT**

* The majority of children in reception reach the ELGs by the end of the Summer term.
* Children demonstrate the characteristics of effective learning which will stand them in good stead for the rest of their school experience.
* Children develop the ability to manage risks
* Children enjoy being independent both in managing themselves and their learning.
* All parents are happy with their child’s progress.
* Parents feel part of the school community
* Practise is improved year on year.
* Everyone is included.
* Children have high levels of wellbeing and involvement.