

QUEEN OF APOSTLES SCHOOL, STAFFORD

EARLY YEARS POLICY



Queen of Apostles is a Catholic school, which identifies and responds to the uniqueness and diversity of the Early Years, celebrating and embedding its importance through community and curriculum in a caring Christian environment. Continuity of learning will be enhanced through the establishment and maintenance of effective, collaborative partnerships within the learning community together with the incorporation of relevant and meaningful active learning experiences.

RATIONALE

As a Christ centred community we value the whole person and celebrate the uniqueness of each child. We aim to develop a respect and appreciation of the dignity and individual giftedness of each person. In partnership with our families we strive to be responsive to the individual needs of each student. Therefore at Queen of Apostles the Early Years of schooling is a crucial time for children to celebrate their uniqueness, to develop social, emotional, spiritual well being and to experience success in learning.

PROCEDURES

Queen of Apostles Catholic Primary School in partnership with BCE will:-

Community

develop a sense of community by establishing effective partnerships through the interaction of staff, students, parents, parishioners and other professionals to enhance learning by fostering friendship, co-operation and support

Staff

- Familiarise all staff with the Early Years Policy and negotiate continual professional development in areas of need
- Provide appropriate staffing ratios to enable all children in the Early Years to experience success
- Work collaboratively together as a staff and with parents and community to support the child's ongoing learning and development.
- To provide a stimulating learning environment where the child is involved in relevant, purposeful and appropriate learning experiences
- Empower children and encourage decision-making, self management and internalization of locus of control

Curriculum

The curriculum will focus on the following areas as stipulated in the Early Years Guidelines

- social and personal learning
- health and physical wellbeing, particularly in making healthy choices and gross/fine motor development
- language development and communication, focusing on oral language and early literacy
- early mathematical understandings, with emphasis on early numeracy
- active learning processes – thinking, investigating and imagining and responding
- religious education

It will

- have a balance of child-initiated play experience, teacher initiated activities and collaborative projects
- flexible
- have accurate monitoring and assessment records

Environment

Our Early Years Campus located on Chuter Street will encompass Prep to Yr 2. This effective learning environment must be flexible allowing for children to be active and social learners. Settings must be engaging, inviting, challenging and encourage children to interact with others in the co-constructing of knowledge. Environment must support learning through play, real-life situations, focused learning and teaching, investigations, routines and transitions.