



### **Early Years Foundation Stage at St Catherine's C of E Primary School**

At St Catherine's we believe that education should be engaging and stimulate a child's creativity and imagination whilst giving the child unique opportunities to develop intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially. In the EYFS at St Catherine's children learn through play (child initiated learning), first hand, engaging experiences and small group, focus adult led activities. Through play children learn the key 'characteristics of learning' which include:

- being willing to have a go;
- being involved and concentrating;
- having their own ideas;
- choosing ways to do things;
- finding new ways; and
- enjoying achieving what they set out to do.

The topics we cover are child led and change on a yearly basis with the children's interests. The objectives we cover however remain the same and are mapped out to ensure that pupils cover all 7 areas of learning: Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Communication and Literacy (the Prime areas). Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding of the World and Expressive Arts and Design (the Specific Areas). Alongside these we make observations on the 'Characteristics of Learning' which are Playing and Exploring (engagement), Active Learning (motivation) and Creating and Thinking Critically (thinking)

**Progression in the EYFS** is tracked through both formal and informal observations. This involves reaching an understanding of children's learning by watching, listening and interacting as they engage in everyday activities, events and experiences, and demonstrate their specific knowledge, skills and understanding. These observations are then mapped against the Development Matters handbook (2012). This ongoing, continual assessment process feeds into our daily; weekly and topic led planning ensuring that learning is pitched at the right level for all children to make progress. At the end of the year the children's development is matched against the Early Learning Goals and is graded as emerging, expected and exceeding.