

Ashfield Nursery School



Part of Newcastle Nursery Schools Federation

Curriculum Intent

At Ashfield Nursery, we lay the foundations for a bright future—both for each child and for the wider community we serve. Our curriculum is designed to foster our core values: happiness, respect, patience, honesty, and integrity.

We embrace the rich diversity of our school, where 14 languages are spoken, creating a culturally vibrant environment. Every child, regardless of their background or starting point, is welcomed, valued, and supported. Strong partnerships with parents, carers, and families are at the heart of our approach, ensuring that learning is a shared journey.

Language development is a key priority, beginning in our 2-year-old unit and continuing throughout Nursery. We place a strong emphasis on communication, high-quality adult interactions, and fostering a lifelong love of reading.

Our engaging and purposeful curriculum is delivered by skilled, experienced staff in a secure, welcoming, and inspiring setting. We provide broad, balanced learning experiences that reflect the unique needs of our children and community. Outdoor learning plays a vital role, helping children develop strong motor skills and a deep appreciation for the natural world.

At Ashfield Nursery, we celebrate family values, British values, and mutual respect. We nurture curiosity and ambition, creating a learning environment where children flourish, grow in confidence, and embark on a lifelong journey of discovery.

Implementation

Our curriculum balances child-initiated exploration with adult-led activities, ensuring every child receives a tailored, engaging learning experience. Play is central to our approach, allowing children to develop key skills through purposeful, hands-on learning.

A carefully structured timetable supports personalised learning, with focused group sessions that introduce new skills, check understanding, and provide feedback. This ensures that learning is meaningful and impactful.

Children have time for independent exploration in both indoor and outdoor learning spaces, fostering active engagement and deeper thinking.

Our cross-curricular approach encourages creativity, problem-solving, and a broad understanding of the world.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum is designed to develop essential characteristics of learning:

- **Creating and thinking critically** - Encouraging children to generate ideas, make connections, and develop problem-solving strategies.
- **Active learning** - Instilling perseverance, resilience, and a sense of achievement.
- **Playing and exploring** - Inspiring curiosity, experimentation, and hands-on discovery.

The EYFS framework includes seven interconnected areas of learning, with a strong focus on the three prime areas—Communication and Language, Physical Development, and Personal, Social, and Emotional Development—essential for building a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

We also prioritise children's interests, using them as a springboard for deeper engagement and higher-level thinking. Recognising parents as a child's first educators, we provide ongoing guidance and resources to support learning at home.

Impact

Our goal is for every child to have the best possible start in life and be fully prepared for the next stage of their education.

Ongoing assessment is an integral part of our teaching, allowing us to track each child's progress and tailor support accordingly. Staff use detailed observations to inform next steps, ensuring that all children achieve at least good progress based on their individual starting points.

ClassDojo

We use ClassDojo, which is a communication platform that connects teachers, students, and parents, offering a way to share and track learning progress, activities, and milestones. At Ashfield Nursery, we use ClassDojo as a tool to enhance communication with parents and provide an interactive window into your child's learning journey.

Here is how we use it:

Sharing Learning Progress: Teachers post updates, photos, and videos showcasing your child's activities and achievements in the nursery. This allows you to see what your child is learning and how they are developing throughout the day.

Real-Time Updates: You'll receive notifications about your child's experiences, including any milestones, learning moments, or special events. This helps you stay connected to your child's daily learning in a timely way.

Parent-Teacher Communication: ClassDojo allows for seamless communication between parents and teachers. You can message teachers directly to ask questions or share information about your child's learning at home. It is a great way to keep the conversation going!

Sharing Learning at Home: You can also share moments from your child's learning at home, such as new skills they have developed, special activities, or anything they are excited to share. This creates a partnership where we can celebrate your child's growth both in nursery and at home.

ClassDojo makes learning a more collaborative experience, building a stronger connection between home and school while empowering parents to actively participate in their child's early education.