



Stonegate C of E Primary School

Station Road, Stonegate, East Sussex, TN5 7EN

Headteacher: Mr Jonathan Elms

Love of Learning for Life

I came to give life — life in all its fullness. John 10:10



Stonegate CofE Primary School Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Philosophy

'From Little Acorns Mighty Oaks Grow'

Our brilliant, purpose built and cohesive 'Little Acorns' Preschool and 'Acorns' Reception class are an integral part of our flourishing village school. Stonegate CofE Primary School recognises the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) as the important first stepping stones in what will be a wonderful journey of curiosity, discovery, imagination and building resilience through play and 'risky freedoms'. To enable this and support and nurture future transitions through school, 'Little Acorns' and 'Acorns' have full access to stimulating indoor and outdoor spaces, wonderful local surroundings and landscapes, the spacious school field, the fantastic Forest School, specialist music and physical education teachers.

Our EYFS provision is based on the philosophy that each child is unique. To enable child led provision, we shape our curriculum using the children's ideas and interests to provide a varied range of open ended play and learning opportunities. We plan our learning environment using 'continuous provision'. The purpose of continuous provision is *"to continue the provision for learning in the absence of an adult"*. Each and every part of our learning environments are carefully planned to meet and challenge the developmental needs of our children. By ensuring the voices of our children are heard and valued, we help them to realise their thoughts and ideas and enable them to take pride and ownership of their learning. Our learning has a strong appreciation of the importance of books, the world around us and uses creativity and physical activity as a means of building vocabulary and an understanding of our historical and geographical surroundings. The strengths of this approach are seen through our children's progression across all seven areas of learning within the EYFS.

Our greatest resources are the adults, who have an excellent understanding of child development, support children's autonomy and who are reflective and evaluative. Sensitive and skilful adult-child interactions focus on extending thinking, broadening communication and introducing challenge. Warm, positive relationships between all staff, the children and their families are a priority, starting from their very first day and is embedded throughout your child's journey through Stonegate. Every parent and carer is actively encouraged to be involved in their child's journey of discovery and are welcomed into our vibrant school community. Our staff use the observation assessment tool Tapestry effectively to be responsive to our children's needs and interests ensuring that all children make excellent progress from their starting points. Parents are also enabled to engage in observations made by the EYFS team and are encouraged to share learning experiences which do happen outside of school. Our adults utilise a range of strategies to ensure that the teaching is developmentally appropriate, varied and stimulating. All staff recognise the importance of learning behaviours, modelling skills and having the highest expectations.

We whole-heartedly believe that every child is an individual and through meaningful child centred learning, a homely natural environment and the school's distinctive Christian Ethos, they receive the very best education.

**Oak tree, oak tree big and tall
How you start as acorn small
Plant the acorn in the wood
Time and care the acorn should
Grow up strong for all to see
From acorn small to tall oak tree.**

During a child's Stonegate CofE Primary School journey from 'Little Acorns' (Pre-School) to 'Mighty Oaks' (Year 6) we provide happy memories, the skills to build independence, a curious and questioning mind and enable children to grow a love of learning for life.

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