



Strong Foundations at Springvale Primary School

At Springvale Primary, we believe that the earliest years of school are the most important in shaping every child's future learning, confidence and well-being. Our curriculum, teaching and assessment are carefully designed to give every child the strong foundations they need to succeed throughout primary school and beyond.

Our approach reflects the key principles highlighted in Ofsted's 2024 research, *Strong Foundations in the First Years of School*.

A clear and ambitious curriculum

Our curriculum clearly identifies the essential knowledge and skills that all children need to learn by the end of Key Stage 1 — from communication and language to reading, writing and early mathematics. We make sure that every child, including those who need extra support, learns these fundamentals securely before moving on.

We build children's knowledge step by step, giving them plenty of time to practise and apply what they know so that learning becomes fluent and long-lasting.

High-quality teaching and learning

Teachers use a balance of direct teaching and purposeful play to help children learn deeply and joyfully. Lessons are carefully sequenced to build on what children already know, and classroom routines help them stay focused and confident. We make sure children have repeated opportunities to practise new skills, rather than rushing through content too quickly.

Children with additional needs receive targeted support so that they can 'keep up, not catch up'.

Effective assessment

We assess children's learning continuously, not through unnecessary tests or paperwork, but through careful observation and responsive teaching. This helps us spot misunderstandings early and provide extra teaching or practice where needed. Information about each child's progress is shared thoughtfully between year groups to ensure a smooth transition.

Personal development, behaviour and attitudes

We explicitly teach children how to behave, cooperate and care for others. Routines, boundaries and high expectations help all children feel secure and ready to learn. We nurture positive attitudes, resilience and curiosity, helping children to love learning from the very start.

Our commitment

We are proud that our early years and Key Stage 1 provision reflects national research and Ofsted's recommendations. We:

- Make sure the curriculum identifies and prioritises foundational knowledge and skills.
- Give children regular opportunities to practise and become fluent.
- Choose teaching methods that match what is being taught and what children already know.
- Use assessment to help children progress, not to burden teachers or pupils.
- Ensure all children are included, supported and inspired to succeed.

At Springvale, we believe that every child deserves the *best start in life*. Our strong foundations today build the confident, capable learners of tomorrow.