**EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE**

Children join our Lady and St. Hubert's in Reception Class the September before their fifth birthday.

Reception Classes are underpinned by a framework known as the EYFS, which advocates children being cared for and learning though highly personalised play-based environments and four guiding principles. Here is a snapshot into how we meet these principles to an outstanding level at Our Lady and St. Hubert’s:

A Unique Child: We make sure every child is valued, tailoring learning to meet their personal needs whilst celebrating their interest, passions and curiosities.

Positive Relationships: We value each child and their relationships with other children and adults, working with families, staff and other professionals to motivate children to be strong and independent.

Enabling Environments: We provide calm indoor and exploratory outdoor environments which promote communication, respect and problem solving. Children’s independence and creative thinking is cherished.

Learning and Development: The curriculum is delivered through teacher led and child initiated activities which includes learning through purposeful indoor and outdoor play. We place children’s learning and the Catholic ethos at the heart of everything we do: all day, every day.

In addition to the four EYFS principles, there are 7 areas of learning which shape early learning. \*All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children’s curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the prime areas, are:

* communication and language;
* physical development; and
* personal, social and emotional development.

We must also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

* literacy;
* mathematics;
* understanding the world; and
* expressive arts and design.

(\*Extract from the EYFS Statutory Framework, 2014).

Although the school does not have a nursery, it has strong links with the pre-school playgroup run in a classroom in the school