



Hazelwood School  
Nursery and Early Years

## Skylarks – A Parents' Guide



## Our philosophy

We work in partnership with parents to ensure every child is happy, contented and feels safe and secure in our setting.

We provide a nurturing environment where every child's curiosity is encouraged.

We encourage children to develop confidence, to think critically, and to persevere, through challenging and playful opportunities.

We employ staff who love working with our youngest children and demand excellence from themselves. They are sensitive and thoughtful practitioners who promote independence, resilience and a positive self image in each child.

## How will my child be cared for in Skylarks?

We pride ourselves on the high standards of care we provide for our children. In Skylarks we have a Keyperson to child ratio of 1:8 and every child has both a primary and secondary Keyperson. The Keyperson takes responsibility for the child's personal care, liaises with parents and monitors developmental progress by completing a Learning Journey. Staff ensure children's independence and self care are promoted as they enter their final year before school.

## What is a Learning Journey?

A Learning Journey is a document showing each child's developmental progress, mainly through written observations and photographs. This information is used at weekly planning meetings to help devise a programme of stimulating activities relevant to each child. This document is always available for parents to view and will be given them when their child leaves the Nursery.

## How do children learn in Skylarks?

All children's learning at the Nursery follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Guidance (EYFS) which is the statutory play based curriculum guiding the learning, development and care for children from birth to 5 years of age. The EYFS covers seven areas of learning, three Prime and four Specific. This system enables us to provide a wide range of fun and stimulating activities in line with both the children's interests and their stage of development. Keyworkers work closely with their children to monitor and promote their development. In addition each child spends time each week with our Teacher, Mr Garlick, doing specific work on Literacy and Numeracy. The learning areas are as follows:

### Prime areas

#### **Personal Social Emotional Development:**

Making relationships, self confidence and self awareness, managing feelings and behaviour.

**Physical:** Moving and handling, health and self care.

**Communication and Language:** Listening and attention, understanding and speaking.

### Specific areas

**Literacy:** Reading and writing.

**Mathematics:** Numbers, shapes, space and measure.

**Expressive Arts and Design:** Exploring and using media and materials.

**Understanding the World:** People and communities, the world and technology.

Each day children are given frequent opportunities to:

- Play outdoors either in Skylarks large designated garden or on the shared lawn or tennis court area.
- Explore many different 'messy' materials and wide ranging role play activities.
- Take part in specialist music, PE and swimming sessions.
- Make use of the Gym for energetic and large scale play.

*NB More detailed information on our curriculum will be provided at our EYFS information meeting which will be held in September.*

## What are the daily routines in Skylarks?

<b>7.30-8.45</b>	Arrivals, breakfast and free play
<b>8.45-9.15</b>	Self registration and free play
<b>9.15-9.45</b>	Key group sessions
<b>10.00-11.40</b>	Snack time, free play inside and outdoors and small teaching groups
<b>11.40-12.20</b>	Lunchtime
<b>12.20-1.15</b>	Free play then home time for mornings only children
<b>1.15-2.45</b>	Sleep/quiet time, free play inside and outdoors
<b>3.30</b>	Home time for some children
<b>4.30-6.00</b>	Tea in dining room and free play
<b>6.00pm</b>	End of day

Further information regarding: Staffing, Policies, Term dates, Menus, Wrap around care alongside any other information relating to the 2016 Consumer Act is available on our website [www.hazelwoodschool.co.uk](http://www.hazelwoodschool.co.uk).



# The Hazelwood Promise

## At Hazelwood School we promise:



to inspire all pupils with the ambition to achieve their highest academic standards.



to nurture and support all pupils on a journey of self development, providing excellent care and guidance whilst encouraging independence, inner confidence and mutual respect.



to offer the opportunity for all to be inspired with passion and determination and to participate fully in the wider life of the school.



to ensure pupils have an understanding of their place in the local and global community.



to employ staff who love working with children and who demand excellence from themselves and their pupils, acting as dynamic and inspirational role models.



to work in partnership with our parents to ensure that every child's time at Hazelwood is happy and enriching, preparing them fully for the life they choose.

The Skylarks staff team look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure your child has a happy and stimulating time with us.