

Signhills Infant Academy - Early Years Setting and Curiosity Approach



The Diocesan
Board of Education

A few words from **Hannah Gray**, the Headteacher -

We are really proud of our setting and the changes we have made in the last academic year and are looking forward to growing this provision further.

Just to give you a little bit of context about the school and our Early Years setting. We are currently working towards achieving the accreditation of the Curiosity Approach. This is a child led approach that encourages awe, wonder and exploration in our children. It draws inspiration from various early years philosophies including Reggio Emilia and Montessori and focuses on creating calm, natural and resource rich environments that spark children's curiosity and imagination. In our setting you will see lots of open ended and real life objects which we sometimes refer to as loose parts. These real and open ended resources invite our children to use their imagination and encourage problem solving. In the setting you will see the use of ceramics which encourage the children to really value and care for their environment and also help our children develop early skills of assessing risk in a safe environment. Our setting currently has different areas of learning which encourage different skills. You will see a workshop area in which children 'tinker' and use loose parts to build, a theatre area in which children are encouraged to use their imagination and be expressive, a studio including the use of paints, clay and textiles to encourage creative skills and a Piazza which is the units meeting space and used for story time. We are planning to work on the outdoor area this year to make an inviting garden area which encourages outdoor play as opposed to indoor play outside and we are working with staff on developing what is unique about the outdoors.

Our children have settled very well, we have very happy children and families so we are really proud of this new environment.

Our aim at school is to eventually become an expert school/hub/centre of excellence for the teaching of Early Years. We firmly believe that getting it right for our youngest learners is the key to the children's future success.

