

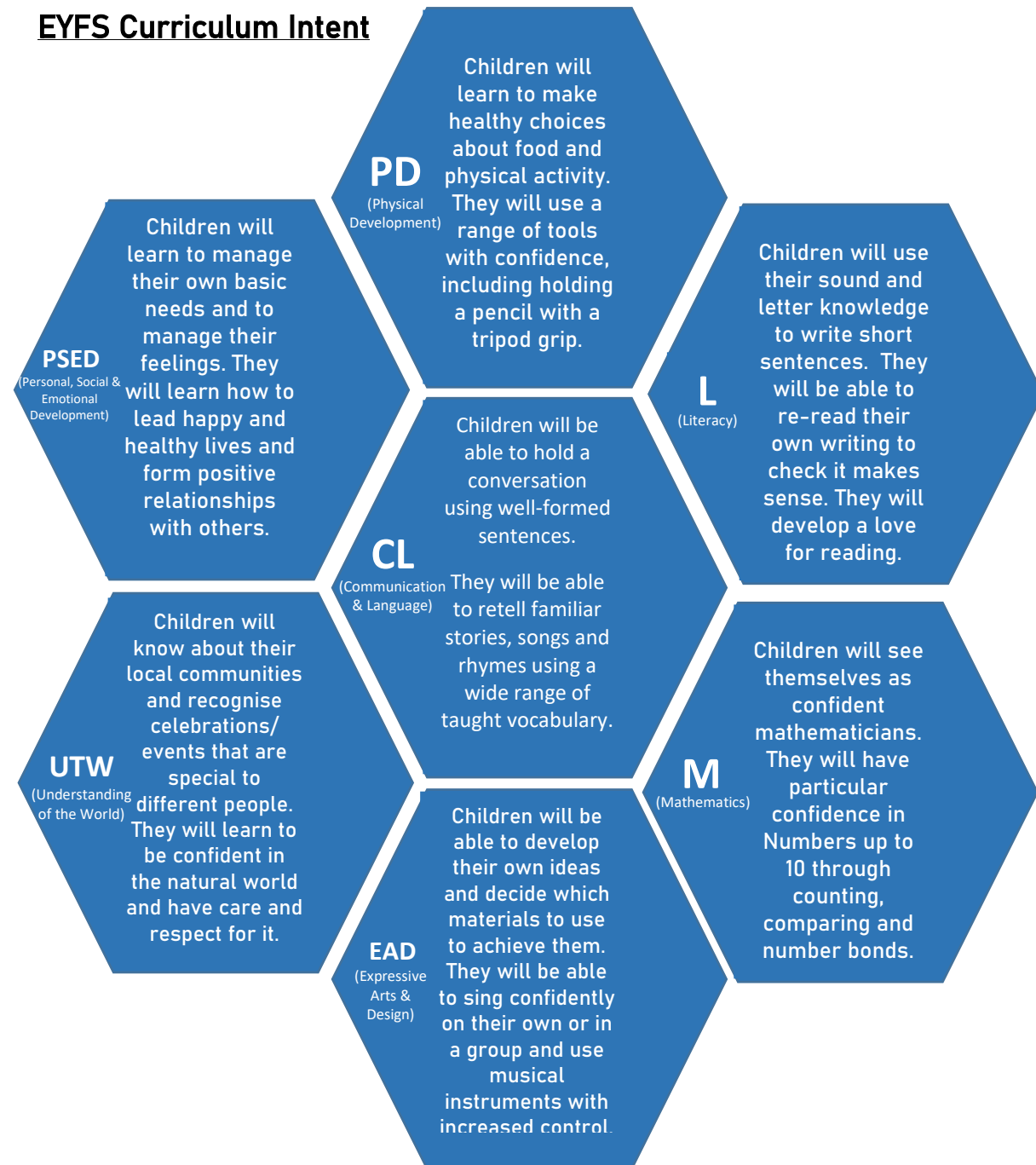
The curriculum in Nursery and Reception at Willowbrook School is based upon a combination of themes that we believe all children should have exposure to during their time with us, combining rich knowledge with all seven areas of learning in the EYFS framework.

Our Nursery curriculum will be heavily led by the three prime areas (PSED, CL & PD). They have 8 core themes that will always be covered throughout the year, with awareness that the children attend on a variety of days of the week and also join at different times during the academic year. The Nursery curriculum is also designed to prepare the children for starting their journey into Reception.

The Reception curriculum will be based upon 11 core themes, with the knowledge that not all of our children will have attended our nursery provision. The themes are mapped out across the year, although the length of each theme will be flexible and dependent on the cohort, as the planning will be led by the children and their interests. These themes include the basic entitlement that children will receive during their EYFS journey at Willowbrook School. Each theme is underpinned by a combination of purposeful play, a variety of quality texts and will always focus on objectives from the three prime areas. The Curriculum has also been developed to nurture the whole child, providing unique learning experiences that will enable them to flourish and develop as every child is entitled to.

The EYFS and KS1/2 curriculum has been designed to maximize retention in children's long term memory, asking children to remember and recall information taught and building upon children's understanding over time. Building in regular retrieval practice will strengthen memory, and this begins in Reception, drawing back on prior learning when starting new themes or in continuous provision. This also includes the revisiting of key vocabulary, that children will be exposed to in the early years, then revised later on in the child's learning journey so that they fully understand the vocabulary and can use and apply it.

## EYFS Curriculum Intent



The characteristics of effective learning underpin our core values that drive our Curriculum. These are enhanced by our Willowbrook School values and learning behaviours. The work on these values/ behaviours begins in the Nursery, where they are introduced to each behaviour alongside an animal to represent the behaviour. We emphasise the importance of these behaviours through positive praise, focusing on the process that children are working through rather than outcomes. Establishing this love for learning and risk taking is crucial in preparing the children for Key Stage 1 and 2 and beyond.

### Characteristics of effective learning

The different ways that children learn that are then reflected in the EYFS practice

#### Playing and exploring

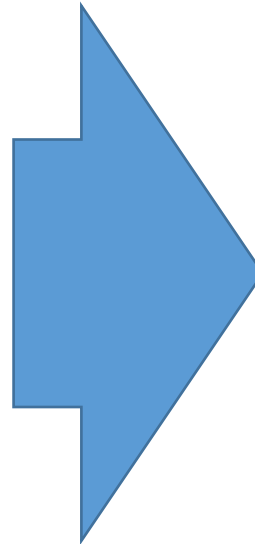
- Finding out and exploring
- Playing with what they know
- Being willing to have a go

#### Active Learning – motivation

- Being involved and concentrating
- Keep trying even if they encounter difficulties
- Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

#### Creating and thinking critically

- Have & develop their own ideas
- Making links between ideas
- Develop strategies for doing things



### Learning Behaviours

Children in Reception & Y1 are taught the learning behaviours through the corresponding animals. By Y2 they are then familiar with the language related to each behavior, so the animal is no longer required.

**Be cooperative (Bee)**

**Have a go (Puppy)**

**Concentrate (Owl)**

**Keep improving (Caterpillar)**

**Enjoy learning (All animals!)**

**Don't give up (Spider)**

**Use your imagination (Butterfly)**

**Be curious (Cat)**