



## Your child's learning journey at Huntingdon Nursery School

### What do we want for our children at Nursery? :

To provide a warm, welcoming and inspirational School that everyone contributes to and feels part of, whether they are children, staff, parents, volunteers or those who train with us.

To help children develop shared common values of kindness, understanding and respect for each other.

For children to gradually develop an understanding of their own, and each other's feelings and views, with adults supporting and helping them to develop self-regulation of their behaviour.

To help children to develop independence and confidence during their time at Huntingdon Nursery School, a key factor if they are to become resilient adults in the future.

To follow the statutory early years framework to create our own curriculum to provide a broad and exciting education across all seven areas of the curriculum which are: Personal Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, Physical Development, Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

For staff and children to focus not only on what they learn, but also on how they learn. We use the EYFS 'Characteristics of Effective Learning', to support and encourage children as they play and explore, actively engage in their learning, and develop the skills of concentration and perseverance. Our aim is that they become independent critical thinkers, who are able to plan how best to execute their ideas, whilst problem solving along the way.

To have a creative, fun and playful approach to activities, fostering children's curiosity about the world around them, and a love of life and learning. At Huntingdon this might be through our regular cooking, or planting sessions.

We aim to develop a deep love of rhyme, reading, and storytelling. This is achieved through a carefully planned developmental curriculum of nursery rhymes and songs, core books and helicopter story telling sessions. We also enjoy walking to our town library

To develop an understanding of Maths in many practical ways, especially at group times and snack times, for example when children help by getting the correct number of cups for the number of children in their group that day.

To celebrate the diverse and rich wealth of languages and cultures that make up the community of staff and families; we plan to share, celebrate, and learn about each other through parents sending in photos or sharing special food that they have enjoyed as part of their family celebrations. We try to learn key words to enable us to use each child's home language as part of their day. We are developing home language sheets to support us with extending our knowledge and confidence to use a range of home languages.

For staff to be fully involved with sharing their own passions and interests with children whether they be in cooking, poetry, gardening, growing food to eat or enjoying the outdoors. Staff enthusiasms are both infectious, and a very good way of extending children's knowledge and vocabulary.

## How do we observe children and monitor progress?

**We follow a model of *effective, meaningful and principled* assessment of young children's learning.**

By **effective**, we mean a method of assessment that ensures that all children are supported in reaching significant milestones.

By **meaningful**, we mean that the observations made inform our everyday practice and curriculum. By gaining an insight into children's thinking, feeling and needs we can plan our environment and actions to provide future possibilities for learning.

By **principled**, we mean that our focus is on **observing to understand** children. We will not test children or seek unnecessary knowledge. Children are recognised as individuals, not as a percentage in a pie chart.

We will not spend unnecessary amounts of time writing observations or gathering evidence of children’s learning. We believe that if we are **capturing** the moment, we cannot be **part** of the moment. Instead we have structures in place that enable us to regularly discuss each child as a team and with their family.



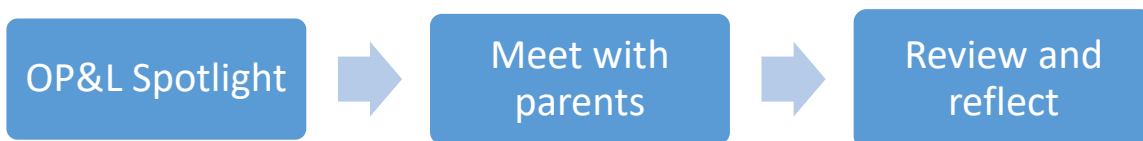
## Observation of Play and Learning (OP&L)

**Your child’s learning will be closely monitored in collaboration with you to ensure they are supported to reach significant milestones for their age.**

OP&L works on the basis of having very simple, six-monthly child developmental milestones, which we use to monitor children’s development. These milestones reflect what we believe a ‘typical’ child, should be able to achieve. We know that not all children will have ‘typical’ development. OP&L allows us to tell and celebrate each child’s story and focus on the support they need from us.

The observations and assessments that we make are called ‘spotlights’. We observe children’s innovation, their creativity, their ideas, their intents and feelings. The insight that we gain enables us to discuss, reflect and plan our environment to support and shape future learning.

OP&L follows a simple, three step cycle:



## What to expect?

There will be many opportunities throughout the year for us to come together to talk about your child and their learning.

### Home visit:

**Welcome meeting:** When your child joins us at nursery, you will be invited to a Parents Welcome meeting held in school where talk about our curriculum and the ways of observing children.

**Settling in conversation:** Soon after your child has started nursery, we will meet with you to talk about how your child has settled in and to share a photo sheet of your child enjoying

a range of activities at nursery. This is a chance to share key information with us from home too.

**Spotlight:** Each child will have two 'spotlight' points in the year. A spotlight is when we focus on your child's individual development against key milestones matched their age to monitor their progress. We will invite you into nursery for a 'parent conversation' where we can both share our observations and talk about your child's learning and development.

We will give you the email address of your child's key person so that you can share important information, photos that celebrate learning at home and special events in your family.

We can also celebrate your WOW moments in school by awarding your child a yellow star which is displayed in the classroom on our starry WOW boards.

**We look forward to working with you, providing happy times and a happy childhood.**

