



Foundations @ Thurcroft

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Welcome to Foundations @ Thurcroft

A very warm welcome from ACET (Aston Community Education Trust) who are delighted to offer a nursery provision for 3 and 4 year olds, situated on the site of Thurcroft Junior Academy. Due to the growing population in the Thurcroft area, government funding alongside funding from ACET has secured the establishment of additional nursery provision in order to offer the 15 and 30 hour entitlement to all eligible children in Thurcroft and the surrounding area.

Our setting offers a warm and welcoming environment to children and their families. Here at Foundations we have high expectations of our children and recognise that all children develop at different rates. Our staff are dedicated in keeping children safe and working in partnership with parents/carers as this is incredibly important to a child's well-being, learning and development.

Foundations @ Thurcroft is open from 7.30am until 4.30pm Monday to Friday Term Time only. Foundations is a registered setting for children aged 3-4 years and provides government funded sessions for all 3 and 4 year olds. Foundations @ Thurcroft accepts children from their third birthday.



Our Aims





Foundations @ Thurcroft aims to provide a friendly, caring, clean, comfortable and safe environment which children will find stimulating and challenging, and where enjoyment and fun is linked to the discovery of learning. In order to meet the above, Foundations @ Thurcroft are committed to:

- To provide a friendly, caring, clean, comfortable and safe environment which children will find stimulating and challenging
- Providing a secure and caring environment that promotes play
- Encourage each child to reach their full potential by providing opportunities that cover all 7 areas of learning
- Ensure that all people are treated with equal respect regardless of social circumstances, ethnicity, gender, disability or religion
- Offer support to and work in partnership with parents/carers and families to provide a high-quality integrated education for children
- Establish effective partnerships with other agencies e.g Speech and Language Therapy, Voluntary agencies
- Help children to develop sensitivity and mutual respect towards others, multi-cultural awareness and a positive approach to learning
- To ensure our provision provides high quality teaching and opportunities to challenge and develop learning
- To provide staff with opportunities to regularly access training. All staff hold relevant First Aid and Safe-guarding qualifications, these are kept up to date for continual professional development.



Meet the Foundations @ Thurcroft Team

All the staff have DBS checks (previously called CRB) and are all safeguarding trained.

	Name and job title	Qualifications and Experience
	Mrs Stone Academy Principal	Mrs Stone is both Academy Principal to the Junior Academy and Foundations @TJA, she has many years' experience in primary education including nursery and FS2.
	Miss Bradley Nursery Manager	Miss Bradley has over 18 years' experience working in a childcare setting within the Local Authority and holds a CACHE Level 3 in childcare and Education.
	Miss Williams Teaching Assistant	Miss Williams has 10 years' experience working within a foundation stage setting and holds a level 3 Diploma in early years.
	Miss Cadd Teaching Assistant/ Nursery Manager on Friday's	Miss Cadd holds a degree in early years and primary education. She has 5 years' experience working within a private day-care setting with children aged 0-4 years.

Staffing Ratios

We maintain a ratio of adults to children that are set through the Safeguarding and Welfare requirements. These ratios are:

- 1 member of staff for every 8 nursery children (3+ years)
- 2 members of staff will always be present during our opening hours

We also have students working towards childcare qualifications who complement these ratios (students are not included in the ratios and are DBS checked).

Our Curriculum

Young children should be provided with high quality opportunities that engages them in learning through their play. We will begin by focusing on children's personal, social and emotional development. They will be encouraged to develop positive relationships with peers and understand the feelings of others. We aim to provide children with natural open ended resources to use their skills and imagination to create, solve problems and take risks. We will encourage children to explore the outdoor area regularly throughout the day to develop their physical skills. Our Curriculum will reflect some topic based activities, Seasonal changes and cultural differences within the community. Our objective is to embed the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes for children to prepare them for future learning and successes.

The Early Years Foundation Stage is a statutory framework that sets the standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old.

The framework specifies requirements for safe-guarding children and promoting their welfare.

The EYFS supports an integrated approach to early learning and development. It gives professionals a set of common principles and commitments to deliver high quality early education and experiences to all children.

The framework is made up of 7 areas of learning

Prime Areas-

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

These three prime areas are then applied through four specific areas;

Specific Areas-

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning identified by the EYFS are:

- Playing and Exploring- children investigate and experience things, and are willing to 'have a go'
- Active Learning- children concentrate and keep on trying even if they encounter difficulties, children enjoy achievements
- Creating and Thinking Critically- children have and develop their own ideas, makes links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things



Registration and Settling in

Our main aim is for your child to feel happy and safe with us. Miss Bradley will arrange some short settling in sessions where you and your child can visit the setting, this allows you and your child to meet the staff and explore the Foundation unit. Staff will discuss your child's routine with you and this is an opportunity to talk about any queries you may have. Upon arrival you will receive an information pack with registration forms in which will need to be filled out ready for their first day. We will work with you and your child to make the transition as smooth as possible. Parents will be offered an additional visit the week before their start date which allows you the opportunity to leave them for an hour (further visits can be arranged if you feel your child may need more time to settle).

School Uniform

We are very proud of our school uniform and the children always look very smart. Our uniform is as follows:

Foundations

Mid-grey or black trousers

Mid-grey or black knee length skirt/pinafore dress

Gold polo shirt

Yellow gingham dress (summer term)

Black fleece jacket

Mid grey smart V-neck jumper

Black/grey tights (girls)

Black, grey or white socks (boys and girls)

Plain black smart school shoes (no trainers)

Plain black boots

Included in your welcome pack is a uniform order form, please fill and return on your first visit.

Clothing, nappies and toilet training

We provide protective clothing for the children when taking part in creative activities. We encourage children to develop their independence skills and will support them in looking after themselves. These will include accessing the toilets and putting on/taking off clothing when accessing the outdoor area. Please be reassured children will receive support in doing this. We ask parents to provide nappies/pull ups, wipes and creams on a daily basis, if your child requires toileting support. Children who are beginning toilet training will be given support and encouragement. Please provide plenty of spare clothes in your child's bag.

The day

The children will engage in free choice and adult led activities covering all areas of development. Our provision provides high quality teaching opportunities to challenge and develop their learning. Foundations @ Thurcroft caters for children's individual needs for rest and quiet activities during the day. Outdoor activities contribute to a child's physical development, we have free flow access to the outdoor space for children to access outdoor activities and explore the world around them.

Snacks and Meals

At Foundations @ Thurcroft we recognise meal times are social opportunities where children can join in conversations with their peers. All children will sit together in a home from home like kitchen to eat meals and snack. We have the option to pay and order a hot school meal, which can be done daily or children are welcome to bring their own packed lunch. Hot school meals are charged at £2.15 per meal and needs to be paid at the start of the week, can we ask the money is in a sealed envelope with amount enclosed and with your child's name on. During mealtimes we will support children in developing their independence by encouraging them to pour their own drinks and eat using a knife and a fork.

We have a morning and afternoon snack, we ask you to bring your child healthy snacks to develop knowledge about healthy lifestyles and diets. Every child is entitled to one free carton of milk per day these are offered with snack, please be assured children are offered extra drinks in hot weather and after physical activities.

Partnerships with Parents/carers

We recognise parents are the first and most important educators in their children's lives. Therefore, we aim to build positive relationships with parents to ensure that you feel valued and respected and can extend their learning in the home environment. Children will have the opportunities to take home weekly maths challenge bags, library books and Phonics challenge cards. These are short simple activities you can share with your child to develop and build upon their knowledge.

During your child's time with us we ask you to contribute towards their assessment by:

- Regularly keeping us informed with their home learning, feedback sheets will be sent with every home learning activity.
- Inviting you to special events within the setting such as seasonal events, sports days, stay and play sessions.
- Parents will be offered a settling in review within the first weeks of your child starting with us and regular parents meetings throughout the school year, this is to discuss your children development and next steps of learning. Please be reassured you are welcome to speak to a member of staff if you have any concerns or to discuss your child's development and well-being.
- We also use the DOJO app, this helps us to communicate with parents and share children's learning. Parents can also upload photos and comments to add to their child's profile.

Regular Attendance

We encourage children's regular attendance as this consistency supports their learning and development. If your child is unable to attend their session for any reason, we ask that you inform us as soon as possible.

Please speak to a member of staff if you are experiencing difficulties in relation to your child's attendance, we are here to give help and support to families.

SEND

Foundations @ Thurcroft welcomes all children and families and we pride ourselves on our experienced inclusive practise. Our staff are committed to offering high quality education and care for all children. As part of Foundations policy to make sure that its provision meets the needs of each individual child, we take account of any special educational needs a child may have. These children will receive additional support as appropriate and will be set achievable targets/next steps to help them reach their full potential. We work to the requirements of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practise (2014).

Our designated SENDCo is **Ruth Stone**.

Assessment

Children are regularly assessed and observed during their play, this enables staff to monitor their progress and plan effectively to achieve their next steps in learning. You child's next step for learning will be shared with you along with a meeting to talk about how aim to achieve these. In order to support our assessments we ask you to share your child's home experiences and achievements with us.

Learning Journals

Each child will receive their own 'learning journal' this is a record of all their achievements and learning accompanied by photos and work they have produced. This book will be updated weekly and shared with you and your child throughout the year. If you would like to see your child's journal at any point please don't hesitate to ask a member of staff. You will receive a 'parent's voice' sheet to share your comments, views and opinions. Your views and opinions are important to us and we take these into account for future practise.

Policies and procedures

Copies of our policies are available for you to access on the website www.thurcroftacademy.org . These policies ensure the service we provide is of high quality and that you and your child have an enjoyable experience at Foundations.

Safeguarding

The purpose of the academy Safeguarding Policy is to ensure every child at our academy is safe and protected from harm. We expect everyone who works in our academy to share this commitment. This means we will always work to take all welfare concerns seriously and act in the best interests of the child to:

- Protect children and young people at our academy from maltreatment
- Prevent impairment of our children's and young people's health or development

All staff have a responsibility to make sure that all children are safe and protected. In the event of any concerns we are obliged by law to follow the safeguarding procedure. Our designated person for safeguarding is **Ruth Stone**.

Please feel free to call 01709 543194 to arrange a visit or if you have any questions.

