



Vision, Values and Aims

Our vision is to provide an **inspiring**, community-driven curriculum and learning environment that enables our children to access a **diverse** range of learning experiences; igniting their **love for learning** and opening doors to their **future**. We value **positive relationships, open communication** and **collaboration**; a **community** where all stakeholders are invested in the **development** of our school.

Underpinning our Vision are the values that we promote and uphold throughout the school. These shared values apply to all who are part of our school community.

Community; building strong relationships in a place where everyone has a voice. Working together, developing skills for the future.

Courage; the strength and resilience to overcome challenges, take risks and grow strong. Knowing that some goals take time to achieve.

Respect; for self, each other and our school and this is reflected in our thoughts, words and actions. Being citizens of the world.

We aim to:

- Be an inclusive community where everyone feels happy, valued, safe and secure.
- Offer a diverse range of learning opportunities to broaden horizons and widen experiences.
- Build and maintain strong relationships with our families and wider community.
- Create an environment which supports and celebrates learning.
- Inspire a love for learning; nurturing independent thinking.
- Raise children's aspirations in preparation for their future.
- Develop reflective, responsible children who have the confidence to create their own path

Our Pre – School Curriculum

In our Nursery and Reception class the children at Willow Green will follow an Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (specifically designed for Nursery and Reception children) and work towards seven areas of Learning and Development. It is a very holistic approach to learning and places a strong emphasis on active learning and the individual child. The staff will observe the children at play and during class activities to build a clear picture of what the children are able to do and to inform us of what their next steps need to be. You will be given a short report at the end of each term to keep you well informed of what your child has been doing and what outcomes they are working towards.

Play and Exploration is fundamental within our School. It means children are able to choose activities where they can engage with other children or adults or sometimes play alone. During these activities, the children will learn by first-hand experiences; by actively 'doing' as well as through scaffolding and modelling by adults. We will provide them with sufficient space, both indoors and outdoors, time and choice with a range of activities. There will be a good variety of planned and prepared activities by the teachers, as well as allowing time for the children to initiate their own learning. Activities will be planned through discussion with the children around their current interests, as well as taking into account their learning styles and stages of development. Our environment will enable children to try things out and make sense of relationships, allowing all children to fulfil their potential.

There are 7 areas to our Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum

Personal, Social & Emotional Development (self-confidence, managing feelings & behaviour, making relationships)

Communication & Language (listening & attention, understanding, speaking)

Physical Development (moving & handling, health & self-care)

Literacy (reading & writing)

Mathematics (numbers, shape, space & measures)

Understanding the World (people & communities, the world, technology)

Expressive Arts & Design (exploring & using media and materials, being imaginative)

'Play is the work of the child.' – Maria Montessori

Our Grade 1 and 2 Curriculum

At Willow Green Academy we aim for our children to access a broad range of learning experiences with a balance of knowledge and skills development so that they can become well-rounded learners.

Our curriculum is bespoke to our school and our community. We follow an international based curriculum, but also alongside this we ensure the cultural heritage and community of Zambia is respected and celebrated.

The children will have English, Math, Science, History and Geography lessons. They will also be taught basic sports skills through weekly Physical Education sessions. We ensure a love of the Arts is developed through our weekly Music and Art lessons.

The school day at Willow Green

The day at Willow Green starts at 07.30 and we encourage you to be as prompt as possible in dropping off your child as school activities start straight away. We encourage your child to put their belongings away for themselves in order to develop independence. Your child will have their own clearly labelled cubby area for keeping their belongings in.

If your child does not stay for after school activities, then the day ends at 13:00hrs. The day ends at 16:00hrs if they do stay for after school activities. We provide a range of activities during after school care – these include Karate, art, ball skills and bounce club (fun on mini trampolines to help improve their balance and co-ordination). We are also hoping to include a splash/swimming activity in the near future and a wide variety of other exciting activities – watch this space! The children can also access a ballet club. A private teacher provides this and all payments need to be arranged with her.

Snacks and Lunch

We have two snack times during the day 07.30 – 13:00 hrs and your child will require enough food and drinks to last throughout their day at school. If they are staying until 16:00 hrs then there will also be an extra snack period. We will provide water for your child throughout the day if needed.

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'Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential.' – Anonymous