

Curriculum & Learning

What curriculum is provided?

The Mulberry Centre aims to put each child first, always. Our main focus is to support, encourage and nurture children through a bespoke and individualised curriculum. We focus largely on supporting the development of social and communication skills which is then supported with academic learning.

All children get a curriculum that reflects their needs.

- This may be fully included in the class.
- It may be 1:1.
- It may be a mix of both class and 1:1 work.

At Mulberry we complete a creative curriculum, where we build our lessons around a theme or topic. Within this topic a teacher plans lessons that incorporates all areas of the curriculum. Children will be expected to complete Maths and English tasks every morning.

Social skills development is on the timetable. This may include:

- Social skills groups (e.g. *Socially Speaking*, *Time to Talk*)
- Turn taking activities
- Simple board games
- Life Skills (e.g. cooking, gardening, cleaning, personal hygiene etc)

What does learning in the Mulberry look like?

The children start the day at 9.15am (but can arrive from 9am). Most travel by taxi but parents/carers are more than welcome to drop off and collect.

The morning starts with 4 morning tasks- a reading task, a Maths or English task board, handwriting and a social skills task.

The children then complete a maths session until break and after break an English based session.

Afternoons include foundation subjects (e.g. Geography, History, Art etc.) as well as sensory circuits, life skills and social skills interventions/activities, such as language based activities and games that involve listening and turn taking, cooperating with each other. Lessons have a very high degree of predictability, routine and structure.

Lunch and break times are highly structured and all children are supervised throughout both.

Lessons are broken down into 2-5 smaller tasks. Work tasks may be different and individualised as learning is planned to very much meet individual needs. After each task, they may have a short sensory break (e.g. 3 minutes). During the sensory break children may visit 'The Den', use a fiddle toy, watch a sand or liquid timer or just rest. This time depends on how individuals are coping with lessons and whether they need some time away from learning.

At Mulberry we also provide breakfast and snacks during the day. This is to make sure all of our children are prepared for the day.

All of our children have choice time at the end of the school day for 20 minutes. This time has to be earned through good behaviour and positive choices. During this time children can choose what they wish to do, this could be using ICT, drawing or colouring, board games, outdoor time etc.

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