



## Learning Environments – Subject on a page

### **Why Learning Environments are important**

Environments are learning spaces which have been thoughtfully designed to provide the best developmental opportunities for our children at St William of Perth. The environment is seen as an 'additional teacher' offering learning opportunities, key learning points and creating awe and wonder. We ensure that all learning opportunities are optimized, including the important role of the environments in which our children spend a great deal of time in throughout the day. Creating environments that are well-thought out, designed for a purpose and influence the mind set of our children to become independent 'thinkers and doers' of society. In an age reliant on technology, (although having their place) we want our children to think beyond the iPads and to educate them through head, hands and heart, instilling those characteristics of effective learning.

### **INTENT - What we are teaching**

We are teaching our children to be grounded in the here and now. Accessing information from the environment around them promotes the Characteristics of Effective Learning more commonly spoken about within the Early Years Foundation Stage, but we believe vital to continue throughout all of childhood. We are teaching our children the skills they need to cope in an ever-changing world. Offering pockets of awe and wonder we are encouraging our children to be inquisitive and sparking interest.

### **IMPLEMENTATION - How we teach it**

Each classroom is developmentally appropriate for the children it is designed for. Environments are thought out and considered for the children and therefore change with the needs of the children throughout the year. Environments aid learning, celebrate our children's achievements and spark curiosity. Having an environment not only aids children academically, but socially and mentally. Placing a high importance on the environment and modelling it within our own practice, teaches our children to have respect for the world around them, something which they can take into the wider community. Communal areas are neutral to not over stimulate children, allowing the key purpose of the display or artefact to stand at the forefront, allowing the focus to be on the main learning point.


### **IMPACT - What is working**

Children are looking after the school environment. They take pride in the work that is displayed and ensure it is of the highest quality. Celebrating this gives children a sense of pride to be a member of the St William of Perth community and motivates them to continue pushing their own capabilities.

Interest areas around the school, whether it is an artefact or an area dedicated to an inspirational figure, sparks curiosity and children are asking questions to deepen their understanding therefore broadening their scope of knowledge.

Optimising the environments we have both inside and outside has had a positive impact on behavior. For example, introducing a med kitchen near the playground has given focus to certain groups of children and stimulates their play in a positive way, giving a focus and meaning to their play.

On the scale below rate where you believe this subject currently stands in terms of your overall curriculum offer:



**Developing**
**Secure**
**Embedded**

### **Creative curriculum leader actions and impact**

Previous Improvement Actions and Impact	Current Improvement Actions	Future Improvement Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communal displays have been backed in neutral colours to ensure they are not over stimulating and to allow the work on them to shine.</li> <li>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing the hall to reflect our key principles as a school and our Catholic ethos.</li> <li>Developing the playground bank areas to offer further provision to enhance learning through play opportunities for all children in the school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support teachers to further develop classroom environments to support the needs of their children and create homely safe spaces to optimise the learning of our children.</li> </ul>

--	--	--