

Early Years Foundation Stage

What does Cultural Capital Mean in EYFS?

Cultural capital is the accumulation of knowledge, behaviours, and skills that a child can draw upon and which demonstrates their cultural awareness, knowledge and competence; it is one of the key ingredients a pupil will draw upon to be successful in society, their career and the world of work.

Ofsted define cultural capital as...

“As part of making the judgement about the quality of education, inspectors will consider the extent to which schools are equipping pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

In EYFS, we firmly believe that every child deserves the best possible start in life irrespective of their background, home-life or challenges (their cultural capital, their neighbourhoods, the language spoken at home, the reading ability of their parents or special educational needs or disabilities). We recognise that every child that arrives at our school will have different experiences, ideas and pre-conceived knowledge based on what they have been taught and experienced so far. We fully believe that exposure, not only to culture but also to situations in which the children might not have previous experiences of, is of paramount importance to their ongoing successes.

What is the benefit of gaining Cultural Capital in Early Years?

Through gaining Cultural Capital in Early Years children are more likely to be more experienced for future successes. Building Cultural Capital from a young age is important as it can guide children to make more informed decisions later in their lives that will allow them to become knowledgeable, empathetic and kind individuals.

How do we promote Cultural Capital in EYFS?

Our children benefit from a flexible curriculum that builds on what they understand and know already. We provide a range of opportunities and a curriculum for all children to have their experiences broadened and be opened to a new world of learning and wonder through the seven areas of learning. Activities are engaging, exciting and stimulating and include trying a variety of fruits, finding books on children's favourite topics, educational visits and learning beyond the classroom. We make trips to the local park; or organise visits from community figures such as the police, firefighters and nurses. We teach children about a variety of faiths and religious celebrations including cultural events such as Black History Month, Holi, Chinese New Year, Hannukah, Christmas, St Patrick's Day and Diwali.

What is an example of Cultural Capital in Early Years?

Imagine two children dressed up as pirates. Cultural Capital would be the pre-existing knowledge that the children have about pirates, allowing them to enjoy the game. They know that pirates wear hats and carry weapons and that pirates go “arrghh!” This information is entirely based upon their own experiences and ideas before they arrived into the Early Years setting.

Cultural Capital in Early Years

Here are just some of the experiences the children have enjoyed!



Caring for animals

Monty the Therapy Dog

Learning about minibeasts



Christmas



Yom Kippur



Chinese New Year

Celebrating Faiths and different cultures



Diwali



Remembrance Day



Black History Month



Learning that love comes in different colours



Celebrating International Women's Day



Celebrating British Science Week





NSPCC Number day



Children in Need



Learning what it is like to be charitable



Show Racism The Red Card



Mental Health Awareness Day



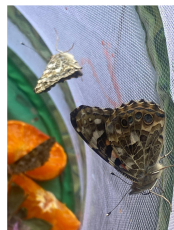
Role play



Bikeability



Searching for Minibeasts



Learning about the Lifecycle of a butterfly



Forest School



Learning about the seasons

Learning beyond the classroom



Educational visitors



Educational Trips



Looking after our garden



Learning about fruits and vegetables around the World and tasting them



Role play and baking - Celebrating King Charles Coronation



Firefighters



Author



Nurse



Vet



Hairdresser

**Broadening our Horizons
Visitors talking about their roles and professions**