OVERVIEW
The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) will be marked by excellence, enjoyment, learning and fun. Our intention is to develop quality and consistency in the provision of education and welfare for the children in this school. Our aim is that all St Monica’s children will experience excellent provision and will enjoy their time in the EYFS.

OBJECTIVES
1. To ensure that all children receive the same level of provision that more socially advantaged children enjoy.
2. To help every child achieve the ‘Every Child Matters’ outcomes of Staying Safe; Being Healthy; Enjoying and Achieving; Making a Positive Contribution; Achieving Economic Well-being
3. To set high standards for learning; development; care and welfare and progress to ensure that no child is left behind
4. To provide equality of opportunity. To ensure that there is no discrimination and that there is full inclusion for all.
5. To build a strong and effective partnership with parents and professionals, and the different settings.
6. To provide quality and consistency by creating strong links between the nursery setting and the reception setting in our school.
7. To build a foundation for future learning by meeting the individual needs and interests of the child
8. To establish effective strategies for observation and assessment.

STRATEGIES
1. The statutory requirements of the ‘Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage’ will be met.
2. We will take account of the statutory guidance and will demonstrate clear reasons where we decide to depart from it.
3. In our teaching, learning and planning we will take account of the four themes of the EYFS Framework: A Unique Child; Positive Relationships; Enabling Environments; Learning and Development
4. We will ensure that we meet the legal requirements for safeguarding and promoting children’s welfare, health and safety, by ensuring that we employ suitable people and by ensuring that our premises, environment and equipment are safe, secure and fit for purpose.
5. We will put into place effective organisation for the EYFS and we will keep appropriate documentation as required by the Framework.
6. We will meet the learning and development requirements by developing our curriculum, teaching and learning on the six areas of learning. We will work hard to ensure that the Early Learning Goals are acquired by the end of the academic year in which children are five.
7. We will use the Educational Programmes of the EYFS Framework to develop the skills and processes to be taught and we will put in place effective arrangements for assessing children’s achievement and progress against the 0-60 months assessment framework as well as the foundation stage profiles at the end of reception.

CONCLUSION
Importance will be given to: connection, play and the balance between adult-led and child-initiated activity. We will recognise the individuality of children and accept that, due to different rates of development and progress that children make, some will achieve, some will exceed and some will be working towards the early learning goals by the end of foundation stage. This policy should be read in conjunction with all our other policies which apply equally to foundation stage.