

# Word Aware in EYFS

## *Blue Coat Infant School*

At Blue Coat Infant School, we prioritise early language development through our structured Word Aware approach. Vocabulary is explicitly planned and taught to ensure all children develop the language needed to access the full curriculum.

In Nursery and Reception, carefully selected vocabulary is embedded across all areas of learning through high-quality texts, purposeful play, direct teaching and meaningful adult–child interaction. Staff model ambitious language, provide clear explanations and create repeated opportunities for children to practise and apply new words.

We begin with everyday descriptive vocabulary and progressively introduce subject-specific language linked to mathematics, literacy and understanding the world. Visual prompts, repetition and structured talk support understanding and retention.

Through this approach, children develop:

- A broad and secure vocabulary
- Confidence in speaking and listening
- Improved comprehension
- Strong foundations for reading and writing



By building ambitious vocabulary from the earliest stages, we strengthen cultural capital, close language gaps and ensure all children are fully prepared for Key Stage 1 and beyond.

	<u>Concept Level 1</u>	<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Concept Level 2</u>	<u>Vocabulary</u>
Word Aware	Size (Maths)	big	Size (Maths)	long
		little		short
		fat		tall
	Touch/look	dry		small
		wet		large
	Sound	noisy		Touch/look
		quiet	soft	
		loud	Movement	quick
	Movement	fast		
		slow		
NURSERY	Space	in		
		out		
		under		
		behind		
		top		
		bottom		
	Quantity (Maths)	empty		
full				
more				
lots				

	<u>Concept Level 2</u>	<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Concept Level 3</u>	<u>Vocabulary</u>
Word Aware	Space (PE)	through	Size	thick
		near		thin
		side		wide
		front		narrow
		back	Touch/look (UW)	shiny
		over		rough
		around		smooth
		next to		above
Quantity (Maths)	less	Space (PE)	below	
Order (Maths)	first		forwards	
	last		backwards	
			Quantity (Maths)	few
		fewer		
		half		
		whole		
Reception			Order (Maths)	second
				next

	Concept Level 2	Vocabulary	Concept Level 3	Vocabulary
Word Aware	Comparison (Maths)	same	Measures (Maths)	light
		different		lighter
	Comparison (UW)	old		lightest
		new		heavier
				heaviest
	Measures (Maths)	heavy		taller
		tallest		
Reception				shorter
				shortest
				longer
			longest	
			corner	
			straight	
			side	
			curved	
		Shape (Maths)		