

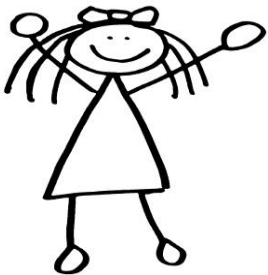
Early Years Foundation Stage Policy



Reviewed: **September 2020 by Selina Pennant EYFS lead.**

Ratified by the Governing Body:

Next review date 2021 or earlier if statutory changes.



Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

1 Introduction

The Foundation Stage applies to children from three years of age to the end of the reception year. Foundation Stage 1 children join us at the beginning of the school year in which they are four. Foundation Stage 2 children join us at the beginning of the school year in which they are five. (Compulsory schooling begins at the start of the term after a child's fifth birthday.) Key Stage 1 begins for our children at the beginning of Year 1. The Foundation Stage equips children with the key skills that are required to access learning in their later schooling. Children learn these skills through explorative play and problem solving activities which are carefully tailored to meet their learning needs. The Early Learning Goals set out what is expected of most children by the end of the Foundation Stage.

Children joining our school have already learnt a great deal simply by observing the world around them and interacting with family and friends. Some children may have previously attended an Early Years setting (such as a private nursery) or have accessed play groups or workshops that are offered by Children's Centres.

The early years education we offer our children is based on the following principles:

- it builds on what our children already know and can do;
- it challenges children and sets high expectations for learning;
- it ensures that no child is excluded or disadvantaged;
- it offers a structure for learning that has a range of starting points, content that matches the needs of young children and activity that provides opportunities for learning both indoors and outdoors;
- it provides a secure, yet rich and stimulating environment which encourages children to work and play independently.
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Article 29: Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities – UNCRC)

2 Aims of the Foundation Stage

2.1

The curriculum of the Foundation Stage underpins all future learning by supporting, fostering, promoting and developing child within 3 Prime Areas:

- Personal, social and emotional development;
- Communication and language;
- Physical development;
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- And 4 specific areas:
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- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding of the world;
- Expressive arts & design.
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Teaching and learning style

3.1

Our policy on teaching and learning defines the features of effective teaching and learning in our school. These features apply to teaching and learning in the Foundation Stage just as much as they do to the teaching in Key Stage 1.

3.2

The more general features of good practice in our school that relate to the Foundation Stage are:

- Establishing a strong partnership between teachers and parents, so that our children feel secure at school and develop a sense of well-being and achievement. Building positive relationships with parents and providing regular effective feedback, helps to ensure that parents are aware of the end of year expectations and can further support their child at home, using similar strategies to the ones used by teaching staff at school.
- Teachers develop a secure understanding of how children make progress and learn, and are flexible, making changes to their teaching as appropriate. Teachers are active participants in the Visible Learning scheme which encourages teachers to carry out case studies and monitor the impact of various elements of their teaching practise.
- Teachers use a range of approaches and offer children first-hand experiences whenever possible. There is an emphasis on creating a language rich environment, ensuring that children are given clear explanations and that teachers make appropriate interventions and extend and develop play and talk or other means of communication;
- Teachers carefully plan a flexible curriculum that focuses on the interests of the children as much as possible. This helps to keep children engaged in their learning and supports them to achieve the Early Learning Goals by the end of the Foundation Stage;
- The provision for children to take part in activities that build on and extend their interests and develop their intellectual, physical, social and emotional abilities;
- the encouragement for children to communicate and talk about their learning, and to develop independence and self-management;
- The support for learning with appropriate and accessible indoor and outdoor spaces, facilities and equipment;
- The identification of the progress and future learning needs of children through observations, which are regularly shared with parents;
- The good relationships between our school and the settings that our children experience prior to joining our school;
- The clear aims for our work, and the regular monitoring to evaluate and improve what we do;
- The regular identification of training needs of all adults working within the Foundation Stage.
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4 Play in the Foundation Stage

4.1 Through play our children explore and develop learning experiences, which help them to make sense of the world. Play provides children with a safe space where they can practise and test out new ideas and skills. Children learn the importance of self-care and self-control, and begin to understand the relationship between cause and effect. They have the opportunity to think creatively alongside other children as well as on their own, and develop an understanding of the rights that both they, and their peers have. They communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems. They express fears or re-live anxious experiences in controlled and safe situations.

5 Inclusion in the Foundation Stage

5.1 In our school we believe that all our children matter. We give our children every opportunity to achieve their best. We do this by taking account of our children's range of life experience when planning for their learning (see our policy on school inclusion).

(Article 28: All children have the right to a good quality education)

5.2 In the Foundation Stage we set realistic and challenging expectations that meet the needs of our children, so that many achieve the Early Learning Goals by the end of the stage. Some children progress beyond this point. We achieve this by planning to meet the needs of boys and girls, children with special educational needs, children who are more able, children with disabilities, children from all social and cultural backgrounds, children of different ethnic groups and those from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

5.3 We meet the needs of all our children through:

- planning opportunities that build upon and extend children's knowledge, experience and interests, and develop their self-esteem and confidence;
- using a wide range of teaching strategies based on children's learning needs;
- providing a wide range of opportunities to motivate and support children and to help them to learn effectively;
- providing a safe and supportive learning environment in which the contribution of all children is valued;
- using resources which reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping;
- planning challenging activities for children whose ability and understanding are in advance of their language and communication skills;
- monitoring children's progress and taking action to provide support as necessary. This involves speech therapy for some of our children.

6 The Foundation Stage curriculum

6.1 The curriculum for the Foundation Stage in our school reflects the areas of learning identified in the New EYFS Framework 2012, Development Matters age bands and Early Learning Goals. The experiences that our children meet often enable them to develop a number of competencies, skills and concepts across the seven areas of

learning. We understand that each area is equally important, inter linked and inter dependent.

6.2 We recognise the fundamental importance of high quality play opportunities for children's development and provide a wide range of direct teaching and high quality planned, supported and free play to enable all children to progress in each area.

6.3 The New EYFS Framework and Development Matters provide the basis for planning throughout the Foundation Stage. Teachers use the national schemes of work where appropriate to support the planning for individual children. Our medium term planning is completed half-terminally and identifies the intended learning, with outcomes, for children working towards the Early Learning Goals, and for those working towards Age Related Expectations for Year 1 & 2 of the National Curriculum.

7 Assessment

7.1 We make regular assessments of children's learning, and we use this information to ensure that future planning reflects identified needs. We take into account the interests of the children and this also informs our planning. Assessment in the Foundation Stage takes the form of observations, and this involves the teacher and other adults as appropriate. Each child has their own Learning Journey folder and work samples and assessments are kept in this. Teachers also record children's progress using the '2 Build a profile' app which enables teachers to take photographs and immediately link them to the associated areas of learning within the profile. We also value the contribution of parents towards their child's assessment.

7.2 In the Nursery the teacher and learning assistants assess the ability of each child using the Development Matters Statements. During the children's first half-term in the reception class, the teacher assesses the ability of each child using the Development matters statements and the age bands. They continue to assess the pupils covering the 3 prime areas and 4 specific areas of learning within the foundation stage using the Foundation Stage Profile. We use this assessment information to support our medium term and short term planning and teaching programmes for individual children and groups of children. Within the first term we have a meeting with parents to inform them as to how well their child has settled in and to discuss issues arising from any assessments, both formal and informal, that have been made.

7.3 The teacher completes the Foundation Stage Profile at the end of the child's reception year. The child's next teacher uses this information to make plans for the year ahead and ensures a smooth transition from Foundation Stage 2 to Year 1. These assessments also form part of the end of year report received by the parents. We have a parental consultation meeting in July where parents can discuss their child's progress with the teacher.

8 The role of parents

8.1 We believe that all parents have an important role to play in the education of their child. We recognise and appreciate the role that parents play in educating their children. Some of the ways that we work with parents include:

- parents' are invited into school to meet with the class teacher and collect their information packs. At this meeting, parents can discuss any issues that concern them with both the head and class teacher.
- the children visit the school and have the opportunity to spend time with their teacher before starting school;

- inviting all parents to an induction meeting during the term before their child starts school. At this meeting parents can discuss any issues that concern them and ask any questions about the school. Parents also have the opportunity to explore the classrooms and to ask members of staff questions about the teaching and expectations in the Foundation Stage.
- Nursery children and their families are visited in their own homes at the beginning of term, prior to starting their Nursery Education. These home visits give parents (and their children) the opportunity to meet the teaching staff and to ask any questions or queries they may have about their child starting at school. Parents are given key information and resources to support their child with the transition in to Nursery.
- A parent conference between the class teacher and the parents of children beginning in the Reception Classes takes place prior to all children starting in Reception.
- offering parents regular opportunities to talk about their child's progress in our reception and nursery classes;
- encouraging parents to talk to the child's teacher if there are any concerns. There is a formal meeting for parents each term at which the teacher and the parent discuss the child's progress in private. Parents receive a report on their child's attainment and progress at the end of each school year;
- arranging for children to start school over the first three weeks of term. We stagger the starting time of each child over this period, so that the teacher can welcome each child individually into our school. Children in the Reception Classes attend for half a day initially, and this builds up gradually to the whole day. Children in Nursery gradually build up to the 3 hour session depending on each individual child's ability to settle. We encourage parents to stay if there are problems with the child's admission;
- arranging a range of activities throughout the year that encourage collaboration between child, school and parents;
- inviting parents in for 'Stay and Play' sessions regularly throughout the year. Teachers share the end of year expectations with parents and provide parents with resources that they can use to support their child's learning.
- offering a range of activities that support the involvement of parents, such as curriculum evenings and open mornings when the parents can observe their children at work and play.
- The school provides Family Literacy classes for the Reception Parents.

9 Resources

- 9.1 We plan a learning environment, both indoors and outdoors, that encourages a positive attitude to learning. We use materials and equipment that reflect both the community that the children come from and the wider world. We encourage the children to make their own selection of the activities on offer, as we believe that this encourages independent learning.

10 Response to Covid 19

- 10.1 A detailed risk assessment regarding the steps we are taking to ensure that our school is a Covid safe environment can be found on the school website. This risk assessment is in line with the most recent government guidelines which can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> . The risk assessment has been shared with all staff and is a working document which is regularly monitored and reviewed.

- 10.2 The guidance given by the government states that children in Nursery and Reception classes do not need to socially distance themselves from each other.
- 10.3 Children will continue to play and learn alongside their peers, however steps will be taken to ensure that any opportunity to spread Covid is limited. These changes include:

11 Children working within 'bubbles'

- 11.1 All Nursery and Reception children will work within their bubble. This means that they will only have contact with each other and the adults that work with them on a regular basis. Teachers will particularly focus on developing children's Personal, Social and Emotional development through regular whole class circle times and assemblies.
- 11.2 Parents distancing themselves from the classroom and staff
 - 11.2 All parents have been given clear instructions about the process of collecting and dropping off their children at school. There is a one way system which is operating for both Nursery and Reception parents. Parents should walk through the EYFS gate as usual and stand and wait by the table that is outside of their child's classroom. Once their child has been brought into the classroom, parents must leave via the Reception playground and out into the car park area. Parents will not be given access to the classroom and they will need to wait at the marked area. This will reduce the amount of contact that parents have with staff and each other.

12 Staggered starts

- 12.1 In order to reduce the number of people in the playground during collection and dropping off times, the Reception classes all start at different times.

The current times are as follows:

Fairy Class:	8.45am – 3.10pm
Unicorn Class:	8.50am – 3.15pm
Pixie Class:	8.55 – 3.20pm

13 Temperature checks

Before children are admitted into the classroom, they will have their temperature checked by a member of staff. Children's temperature must be below 37.8 degrees in order to come into the classroom.

14 Washing hands regularly –

Upon entry of the classroom, children are directed to the sink where they will wash their hands. There are several opportunities for children to wash their hands throughout the day, in addition to the regular use of 70% alcohol hand gel.

15 Cleaning play equipment and tables

Toys, resources and table surfaces are wiped down throughout the day to ensure that children have access to clean equipment.

16 Regular cleaning during the day

During the day, there are cleaning staff who wipe down and clean commonly used areas such as door handles, frames and the toilet area. At the end of the school day, every classroom is deep cleaned, ready for the next day.

17 Class Dojo

All parents are expected to sign up and create an account for Class Dojo. The Class Dojo app will be the main communication tool between parents and teachers. Key messages will be uploaded onto the Class Dojo app and parents can send direct messages to teachers.

18 Home Learning

Every Friday children in Reception will be set home learning tasks to complete. The activities will be based around the key skills that have been taught during the school week. A typical weekly home learning will consist of Phonics, Literacy, Maths and Topic activities. Parents are encouraged to take photographs of their child's work and upload them to their child's portfolio on Class Dojo. Teachers are able to review the uploaded items and allocate Class Dojo reward points as necessary.

19 Bug Club

- 19.1 As a result of COVID19, children will no longer be taking reading books home from school. Alternatively, children will be given access to their 'Bug Club' account. On Bug Club, children can read a wide range of phonically decodable books which are set at the right level for the child.
- 19.2 Parents are encouraged to read regularly with their child for at least 5 minutes every evening. At school, every child is read with at least once a week.

20 Parent Workshops

- 20.1 Parent workshops will now be accessible online. These workshops provide parents with an insight into the curriculum and highlight ways that parents can best support their child's learning.
- 20.2 Teachers will upload key resources including booklets and video recordings; and will model a range of activities that can be done at home to support learning in specific areas.

Signed: Selina Pennant



Date: September 2020

Approved by the Governing Body:

To be reviewed in summer **2021** or if the EYFS curriculum changes