

# Yeading Infant and Nursery School

## Early Years Policy

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### 1. Terminology

The Early Years age group defines children aged from birth until the 31<sup>st</sup> August following their fifth birthday who go to an early years setting that delivers the Early Years Foundation Stage.

- Age 4 – 5 Reception
- Age 3 – 4 Nursery
- Age 3 and below Children's Centre

Registered Provision refers to provision for children under two years of age. Settings must register for Early Years provision with the DfE if they provide for:

- Children aged from birth to under two years and at least one child attends for more than two hours a day; and/or
- Children who are not pupils at the school, such as a separate pre-school, a nursery for children of staff members or a nursery in a children's centre run by the school (it does not have to be on the school premises to be run directly by the school).

EYFS refers to Early Years Foundation Stage.

### 2. Aim

We aim to provide the highest quality care and education for all our children, thereby giving them a strong foundation for their future learning. We create a safe and happy environment with motivating and enjoyable learning experiences that enable children to become confident and independent learners. We value the individual child and work alongside parents and others to meet their needs in order that children make good progress.

### 3. Statutory Framework

We adhere to the Statutory Framework of the EYFS and the four guiding principles that shape practice within Early Years settings:

- Every child is a ***unique child***, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured;
- Children learn to be strong and independent through ***positive relationships***;
- Children learn and develop well in ***enabling environments***, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers; and
- ***Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.***

### 4. Principles into practice

As part of our practice we:

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- Provide a balanced curriculum, based on the EYFS, across the seven areas of learning, using play as the vehicle for learning (within any registered setting, the focus will very much be on the prime areas of learning);

### Communication and Language

#### Reading

#### Writing

#### Maths

#### Mobility

- Promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. We provide early intervention for those children who require additional support;
- Work in partnership with parents and within the wider context;
- Plan challenging learning experiences, based on the individual child, informed by observation, assessment and the child's interest;
- Provide opportunities for children to engage in activities that are adult-initiated and child-initiated, supported by the adult;
- Have a key person approach to develop close relationships with individual children; and provide a secure and safe learning environment, indoors and out.

## 5. The Early Years curriculum

We plan an exciting and challenging curriculum based on our observation of children's needs, interests, and stages of development across the seven areas of learning to enable the children to achieve and exceed the early learning goals.

All of the seven areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. The Prime Areas of Learning are the essential foundations for children to work with and master before progressing into the Specific Areas of Learning.

Prime Areas of Learning		
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Physical Development	Communication and Language
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Making relationships</li><li>▪ Self-confidence and self-awareness</li><li>▪ Managing feelings and behaviour</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Moving and handling</li><li>▪ Health and self-care</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Listening and attention</li><li>▪ Understanding</li><li>▪ Speaking</li></ul>

## Specific Areas of Learning

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Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the world	Expressive Arts and Design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Reading</li><li>▪ Writing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Numbers</li><li>▪ Shape, space and measures</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ People and communities</li><li>▪ The world</li><li>▪ Technology</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Exploring and using media and materials</li><li>▪ Being imaginative</li></ul>

Children are provided with a range of rich, meaningful first-hand experiences in which children explore, think creatively and are active. We aim to develop and foster positive attitudes towards learning, confidence, communication and physical development.

In the Early Years we write medium term plans using the EYFS, based on a series of topics, each of which offers experiences in all seven areas, in both the inside and outside learning areas. We also follow the children's interests where appropriate. Please see our plans for more details. These plans then inform our short-term weekly planning, alongside our observations, which remain flexible for unplanned circumstances or children's responses.

Practitioners working with the youngest children in Nursery will focus strongly on the three prime areas, which are the basis for successful learning in the other four specific areas. The three prime areas reflect the key skills and capacities all children need to develop and learn effectively and become ready for school. The balance will shift towards a more equal focus on all areas of learning as the children move through the Early Years and grow in confidence and ability within the three prime areas.

Children have whole group and small group teaching and learning times which increase as they progress through the EYFS, including a daily phonics session, using a combination of 'Jolly Phonics' and the 'Read, Write, Ink' scheme, teaching aspects of Mathematics and Literacy, including shared reading and writing. The curriculum is delivered using a play-based approach, as outlined by the EYFS with focus teacher-led activities focussing on the Specific Learning areas of Maths and Literacy. Each area of learning and development must be implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. We plan a balance between children having time and space to engage in their own child-initiated activities and those that are planned by the adults. During children's play, Early Years practitioners interact to stretch and challenge children further and develop their language skills for communicating. We have also worked with Hillingdon Early Years Service to establish and embed the 'Funky Fingers' programme, that focusses on developing fine motor skills and wrist strength.

In planning and guiding children's activities, we reflect as practitioners on the different ways that children learn and reflect these in our practice. We create a stimulating environment to encourage children to free-flow between inside and out. There is a focussed emphasis on learning outside the

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classroom and opportunities to do this effectively are explored in all areas of the foundation stage curriculum.

### **6. Regulatory requirements**

We ensure that we implement the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (April 2017) and meet the associated regulatory requirements. Early Years Leaders will attend training in the regulatory requirements, as appropriate.

### **7. Observation and assessment**

As part of our daily practice we observe and assess children's development and learning through our online system called 2Simple. 2Simple allows Early Years staff to observe, track and monitor children's progress and achievements, and is evidenced in their individual profiles. Early Years staff observe each of the 7 areas of development, helping to work towards Early Learning Goals, as well as highlight any areas for extra support that may be needed. In addition to this we also encourage parents to complete the 'Wow' sheet allowing them to document their child's achievements at home in relation to the 7 areas of development. This also helps to build a well-rounded profile and supports our strong parent partnership. Staff also complete long and short observations of children on a daily basis to create a comprehensive learning journey through the early years.

The School's assessment progress for Nursery and Reception includes baselines completed in September and July on Survey Monkey. In Reception we also complete the EExBa Early Excellence Baseline which allows a comparative analysis of the attainment of each cohort of children compared to others nationally in each of the 7 areas of development including Characteristics of learning.

Within the final term of Reception, we provide the parent's with a report based on their child's development against each of the Early Learning Goals and the characteristics of their learning, including strengths and next steps in learning. The parents are then given the opportunity to discuss these judgements with the Reception teacher in preparation for Year 1.

### **8. Safety**

Children's safety and welfare is paramount. We create a safe and secure environment and provide a curriculum which teaches children how to be safe, make choices and assess risks. We have stringent policies, procedures and documents in place to ensure children's safety.

We promote the good health of the children in our care in numerous ways, including the provision of nutritious food and following set procedures when children become ill or have an accident.

### **9. Inclusion**

We value all our children as individuals irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, background, ability or gender. We plan a curriculum that meets the needs of the individual child and supports them at their own pace so that most of our children achieve and even exceed the Early Learning Goals. We strongly believe that early identification of children with additional needs is crucial in enabling us to give the child the support that they need and in doing so, work closely with parents and outside agencies. See our separate policies on Equal Opportunities and Learning Support. We have a wide-ranging series of interventions to support children in their academic and

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social and emotional progress including Language Link, PALs, Attention Hillingdon, ELKLAN, SCERTS (Social, Communication Emotional Regulation Transactional Support), Read Write Ink (RWI), Boys Attainment, More Able Literacy.

### **10. Partners**

We strive to create and maintain partnership with parents and carers as we recognise that together we can have a significant impact on a child's learning. We welcome and actively encourage parents to participate confidently in their child's education and care in numerous ways.

Working with other services and organisations is integral to our practice in order to meet the needs of our children. At times we may need to share information with other professionals to provide the best support possible.

### **11. Transitions**

Transitions are carefully planned for and time given to ensure continuity of learning. At any transition, we acknowledge the child's needs and establish effective partnerships with those involved with the child and other settings, including nurseries and childminders. Children attend introductory sessions to Nursery/Reception to develop familiarity with the setting and practitioners.

In the final term in Reception, the Year 1 teacher will meet with the Early Years staff and discuss each child's development against the Early Learning Goals in order to support a smooth transition to Year 1. This discussion helps the Year 1 teacher to plan an effective, responsive and appropriate curriculum that will meet the needs of all children.

**Date of Policy: May 2019**

**Date of Review: May 2020**

