



## Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

*Article 29 - Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.*

*"Development can only take place when children are actively involved, when they are occupied with a high, non-stop degree of concentration, when they are interested, when they give themselves completely, when they use all their (mental) abilities to invent and make new things and when this gives them a high degree of satisfaction and pleasure."*

**Ferre Laevers**

### Aims

Through the implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- Give each child a happy and positive start to their school life in which they can establish a solid foundation for a love of learning.
- Enable each child to develop socially, physically, intellectually and emotionally.
- Encourage children to develop independence within a secure and friendly atmosphere.
- Support children in building relationships through the development of social skills such as cooperation and sharing.
- Work alongside parents to meet each child's individual needs to ensure they reach their full potential.

Four guiding principles shape our practice:

- 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 the school and parents.
- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

To put these principles into practice, the school:

- Provides a balanced curriculum which takes children's different stages of development and interests into account.
- Promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice positively promoting protective characteristics through texts and images celebrating diversity.
- Works in partnership with parents through tapestry, parent consultations, class dojo and parent workshops.
- Plans challenging learning experiences, based on individual needs, which are informed by observation and assessment.
- Provides a safe and secure learning environment. Monitored through Risk Assessment documents.

## Curriculum

At Poplar Farm School the EYFS curriculum is based on an observation of children's needs, interests and stages of development, where 'next steps' for learning are identified and supported. In partnership with parents, the school promotes the learning and development of pupils to ensure they are ready for the next stage of education.

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape education programmes in EYFS settings. These are split into two sections – prime and specific; however, all the sections are interconnected and important.

The 'prime' areas of learning and development are:

- Communication and language - Listening and attention - Understanding - Speaking
- Physical development - Moving and handling - Health and self-care
- Personal, social and emotional development - Self-confidence and self-awareness - Managing feelings and behaviour - Making relationships

The 'specific' areas of learning and development are:

- Literacy - Reading - Writing
- Mathematics - Numbers Draft 2018 - Space, shape and measure
- Understanding the world - People and communities - The world - Technology
- Expressive arts and design - Exploring and using media and materials - Being imaginative

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum that makes learning exciting and fun.

## Planning

All planning is based around opportunities that build upon and extend children's knowledge, experience and interests, and develop their self-esteem and confidence.

- Our curriculum for Foundation Stage follows the guidance set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Our children's learning experiences enable them to develop competency and skills across a number of learning areas.
- The Early Learning Goals form part of the National Curriculum and are in line with the objectives stated in the Primary Framework for Literacy and Mathematics. The children's interests inform planning for both groups and individuals. Our medium-term planning is completed half-termly which identifies the intended learning for children working towards the Early Learning Goals following the CIT Early Years Curriculum.
- We plan a learning environment, both indoors and outdoors, that encourages a positive attitude to learning. Indoor spaces are planned so that children can independently access a variety of resources using Plan, Do, Review and an appropriate range of activities are provided, with a particular focus on Domestic Role Play. We also ensure that we employ resources which reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping.
- The outdoor space is planned to give children opportunities for doing things in different ways on different scales, with a range of clearly labelled resources in boxes for children to access independently. We use materials and equipment that reflect both the community that the children come from and the wider world. Resources and activities are planned and organised based on children's interests. We encourage the children to make their own selection of the activities on offer, as we believe that this motivating and encourages independent learning.

## **Assessment and Monitoring**

Assessment plays an important part in helping the school to recognise children's progress, understand their needs, plan activities, and assess the need for support.

- During the first term in Reception, the teacher assesses the ability of each child using a baseline assessment. These assessments allow us to identify patterns of attainment within the cohort, in order to adjust the teaching programme for individual children and groups of children.
- The Foundation Stage Profile is the nationally employed assessment tool that enables teachers to record their observations at the end of the Foundation Stage, and to summarise their pupils' progress towards the Early Learning Goals. It covers each of the seven areas of learning contained in the curriculum guidance for the Foundation Stage. We record each child's level of development against the 17 early Learning goals as Emerging, Expected or Exceeding.
- We regularly assess children's learning, and use this information to ensure that planning reflects identified needs. Assessment in the Foundation Stage takes the form of both formal and informal observations, photographic evidence and through planned activities.
- Assessment is completed by both the teacher and other adults working with the children, with tracking grids being updated at the end of each term on O-Track. This provides a summary sheet for each child which feeds into the whole-school assessment and tracking process.
- The teacher keeps progress records, learning journals and records examples of each child's work that feed into internal and external moderations.
- At the end of the final term in Reception assessments are sent to the LCC for analysis.
- The child's next teacher uses this information to make plans for the year ahead. We share this information too at parental consultation meetings and in the end-of-year report.
- Parents receive an annual written report that offers brief comments on each child's progress in each area of learning. It highlights the child's strengths and development needs, and gives details of the child's general progress. We complete these in June, and send them to parents in early July each year.
- Reasonable adjustments will be made to the assessment process for children with SEND as appropriate.

## **Special Needs and Inclusion**

At Poplar Farm all children are valued as individuals irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, background, ability or gender.

- Please refer to the Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy as this ensures that the needs of all children are met, regardless of any protected characteristics they have. Furthermore, the EYFS curriculum is planned in order to meet the needs of the individual child and support them at their own pace.
- All SEND in the EYFS setting is monitored and managed by the school's SENCO following the Poplar Pathway.
- We work closely with settings that have identified SEND to ensure we are in a position to meet the child's needs when they join Poplar Farm School.
- Please refer to the SEND policy which outlines the full policy and procedures.

## **Working with Parents**

We recognise that children learn and develop well when there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.

- Parents and/or carers are kept up to date with their child's progress and development.
- Parents are invited to parent consultations with the EYFS Teacher twice yearly and will receive a written report noting achievements and outcomes in the summer term of their Reception year. However, the school has an open-door policy and parents are welcome to talk to teachers at the beginning or end of the school day and/or send messages via Dojo.
- The EYFS profile helps to provide parents and/or carers with a well-rounded picture of their child's knowledge, understanding and abilities. This is accessed through Tapestry Login.
- Parents are involved in discussions about children's progress and developing from early on and targets or next steps for the child are shared.

## **Transition from Nursery to Reception**

We recognise that starting school has the potential to be a stressful time for both parents and children. To this end, we have established a strong set of procedures for transitions to be smooth as possible.

- All children starting in our Reception have nursery visits prior to starting school, this gives children the security of meeting with their teacher in a safe, familiar environment and gives staff time to ask questions and share knowledge or any concerns they have about the child in their care.
- In addition to this, all the children have two taster sessions in the Summer Term to meet the staff and get familiar with their new surroundings. During this time, the sessions are focused on learning names, class rules and adapting to new routines, the children will also be offered lunch on one of their visits. Those children coming from different setting throughout the year to our Reception are offered visits by the Early Years Co-ordinator and their progress and development shared by their teachers.
- Parents of all children starting in the next academic year will be invited to an induction meeting in the Summer term to meet their child's new teachers and other key staff. We will also explain more about the reception curriculum, daily routines, uniform, PE kit, school dinners, including free school meals and explain about the induction in to Reception.
- All children starting in Reception have a task to complete during the summer break and parents are given an induction pack.

## **Transition from Reception to Year 1**

All staff work together to ensure a smooth transition for all children when moving year groups.

- In the Summer term, all our Reception children visit their new Year 1 teachers on two occasions prior to them starting Year 1.
- Reception teachers pass on their knowledge of each child's development, progress and achievement towards the early learning goals to ensure that all teachers have a well-rounded picture of the children prior to starting the new school year.

## Safeguarding and Welfare

Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them.

- We follow the safeguarding and welfare requirements detailed in the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' statutory guidance and EYFS Statutory Guidance (2017) while we adhere to the Poplar Farm's safeguarding policy using CPOMS.
- A Reception risk assessment is in place to review the health and safety arrangements on a regular basis.
- Manage behaviour effectively in a manner appropriate for the children's stage of development and individual needs, following the school behaviour policy.
- Maintain records, policies and procedures required for the safe efficient management of the setting and to meet the needs of the children.
- We are a healthy school and participate in the free fruit and milk for under-fives scheme.
- For our Reception children we provide the universal infant free school meal and the menu is regularly monitored with the chef.
- We cater for those children who have special dietary requirements and have robust systems in place ensuring that all children receive the correct meal.
- Fresh water is readily available for all children and we encourage children to use their water bottles throughout the day.
- Children are taught the importance of personal hygiene and washing their hands correctly.

## Links

The Early Learning Goal Handbook:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/942421/EYFSP\\_Handbook\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/942421/EYFSP_Handbook_2021.pdf)

## Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of those working in Reception to follow the principles stated in this policy. The Head Teacher and EYFS lead will carry out monitoring on EYFS as part of the whole school monitoring schedule and The Governing Body will also be part of this process. This policy will be reviewed in March 2022 or as necessary.

Acceptance of this policy includes a commitment to implementing it in full.

This policy was adopted on:	<b>March 2021</b>
Review Cycle:	<b>Annually</b>
This policy was subsequently reviewed on:	