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# EYFS Policy

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**Revised:**

## **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Policy.**

### ***“Play Is The Work of the Child” Maria Montessori***

*Learning through play underpins our approach to teaching and learning in the EYFS at Abbey Park Primary Academy School. We embrace the fact that young children learn best from activities and experiences that interest and inspire them to learn. In doing so we can provide children with stimulating, active play experiences in which they can explore and develop their learning and to help them make sense of the world. Children have opportunities through their play to think creatively and critically alongside other children as well as on their own. They are able to practise skills, build upon and revisit prior learning and experiences at their own level and pace. Play gives our children the opportunity to pursue their own interests, inspire those around them and consolidate their understanding and skills. The children learn to adapt, negotiate, communicate, discuss, investigate and ask questions. Our adults take an active role in child initiated play through observing, modelling, facilitating, teaching and extending play, skills and language.*

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of the Reception year. Our Early Years Foundation Stage comprises one Nursery class one Reception class. At Abbey Park Primary Academy School children join the Reception class in the year that they turn five and the Nursery class in the year they turn four. In partnership with parents and carers we enable the children to begin the process of becoming active learners for life.

We endeavour to ensure that children “learn and develop well and kept healthy and safe.” We aim to support children in their learning through “teaching and experiences that gives children the broad range of skills that provide the right foundation for good progress through school and in life.” (Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2012)

The EYFS is based upon four principles:

- A unique child – developing resilient, capable, confident and self-assured individuals.
- Positive relationships – supporting the children in becoming strong and independent.
- Enabling environments – where opportunities and experiences respond to the individual needs of the child by developing a strong partnership between practitioners, parents/carers and the child.
- Learning and developing – An acknowledgement that children learn in different ways and at different rates

### **A Unique Child**

We recognise that every child is a competent learner who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. We recognise that children develop in individual ways, at varying rates. Children’s attitudes and dispositions to learning are influenced by feedback from others; we use praise and encouragement, as well as celebration/ sharing assemblies and rewards, to encourage children to develop a positive attitude to learning.

### **Inclusion/Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

All children and their families are valued at Abbey Park Primary Academy School. Children are treated as individuals and have equal access to all provisions available. All children are encouraged to achieve their personal best and planning is adapted to meet the needs of all groups and abilities. Assessments take into account contributions from a range of perspectives to ensure that any child with potential special educational needs is identified at the earliest possible opportunity. Early identification of

special needs is crucial to enable staff to support the development of each child. Concerns are always discussed with parents/carers at an early stage and the schools Inclusion manager is called upon for further information and advice. Appropriate steps are taken in accordance with the school's Inclusion policy for SEN.

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.

### **Dyslexia friendly**

In order to accommodate the individual's particular learning style lessons will be planned wherever possible in a multi-sensory way so that the various activities will cater for all pupils in the spirit of inclusion. There will also be a consideration of how to record lesson outcomes so that the pupil is offered a variety of methods and is not inhibited by any specific difficulty.

### **Welfare**

It is important to us that all children in the school are 'safe'. We aim to educate children on boundaries, rules and limits and to help them understand why they exist. We provide children with choices to help them develop this important life skill. Children should be allowed to take risks, but need to be taught how to recognise and avoid hazards. We aim to protect the physical and psychological well-being of all children. (See Whole School Safeguarding Children Policy)

"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."

At Abbey Park Primary Academy School we understand that we are legally required to comply with certain welfare requirements as stated in the Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage 2012. We understand that we are required to:

- Promote the welfare and safeguarding of children.
- promote good health, preventing the spread of infection and taking appropriate action when children are ill.
- manage behaviour effectively in a manner appropriate for the children's stage of development and individual needs.
- ensure all adults who look after the children or who have unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.
- Ensure that the premises, furniture and equipment is safe and suitable for purpose
- Ensure that every child receives enjoyable and challenging learning and development.
- Maintain records, policies and procedures required for safe efficient management of the setting

and the needs of the children.

### **Positive Relationships**

At Abbey Park Primary Academy School we recognise that children learn to be strong and independent from secure relationships. We aim to develop caring, respectful, professional relationships with the children and their families.

### **Parents as Partners**

We recognise that parents are children's first and most enduring educators and we value the contribution they make. We recognise the role that parents have played, and their future role, in educating the children. We do this through:

- talking to parents about their child before their child starts in our school;
- the children have the opportunity to spend time with their teacher before starting school during transfer sessions;
- support children through the transition from Nursery to Reception
- inviting all parents to an induction meeting during the term before their child starts school and again during the first half term of the child's Reception year in order to detail how we aim to work with their child particularly in relation to reading and phonics;
- encouraging parents to talk to the child's teacher if there are any concerns. There is a formal meeting for parents twice a year at which the teacher and the parent discuss the child's progress in private with the teacher. Parents receive a report on their child's attainment and progress at the end of each school year;
- arranging a range of activities throughout the year that encourage collaboration between child, school and parents: stay and play sessions, celebration assemblies, school visits, enterprise days;
- providing parents an opportunity to celebrate their child's learning and development by completing "wow" moments which inform planning and provision;
- Written contact through home school diary as well as the acknowledgement that parents can ring school to contact staff.
- By providing a quiet and confidential area where parents are able to discuss any concerns.

### **Enabling Environments**

Abbey Park Primary Academy has one Nursery classroom, and one Reception classroom. Each classroom has its own outdoor learning area. All our learning environments are organised to allow children to explore and learn securely and safely. There are areas where the children can be active, be quiet and rest. Areas of provision are defined so that children are able to find and locate equipment and resources independently.

We aim to create an attractive and stimulating learning environment where children feel confident and secure and challenged. Effective learning builds and extends upon prior learning and following children's interest. The learning environment is structured to provide opportunities for child initiated activities as well as adult initiated and adult led. Adult led activities can be 1:1, in small groups of children or whole class. Effective planning is informed by observations of the children to ensure we follow their current interests and experiences. These observations are recorded in the children's individual learning journeys. Play based learning is paramount and children direct their own learning from carefully planned opportunities provided by staff. Staff will enhance play and extend as needed to further individual learning.

## **Learning and development**

Throughout Nursery and Reception children knowledge, understanding, skills and achievements are assessed and tracked using the developmental stages set out in the document 'Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)'.

Our assessment depends on us getting to know our children very well and to this end we gather information from a range of sources; observations of the children in play, in adult led activities, through discussions with parents and carers and through talking to the children. We keep written and photographic evidence to help us build up a picture of children's strengths and achievements and to help us to plan for children's next steps in learning. Every child in nursery and reception has an electronic 'Learning Journey' through the Target Tracker school assessment system in which we record our observations. We keep samples of the children's work in Learning Journey 'Scrap Books', Busy Books (for mark making and pre writing development) in Nursery to Literacy and Maths workbooks in Reception.

From September 2016 our children's knowledge, skills and understanding will continue to be tracked from Nursery throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage and assessed against the ELG's at the end of Reception to establish an end of EYFS achievement and learning profile for each child in preparation for their transition to key stage one

## **EYFS AREAS OF LEARNING**

The Early Years Foundation Stage is a curriculum from birth to five years old, we follow the strands set by this curriculum and concentrate the learning opportunities on the seven areas of learning, which are;

### **PRIME**

1. Personal Social and Emotional Development
2. Physical Development
3. Communication and Language

### **SPECIFIC**

1. Literacy
2. Mathematics
3. Understanding of the World
4. Expressive Arts and Design

None of these areas can be delivered in isolation from the others. They are equally important and depend on each other. All areas are delivered through a balance of adult led and child initiated activities. Through play and practical experiences children learn about the world and their place in it. They learn through first hand experiences, talk, books and equipment. We set realistic yet challenging expectations that meet the needs of our children. 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.

## PERSONAL SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The school fosters and develops relationships between home, school, children's centres and places of worship in order to make links stronger for the good of the community as a whole. Children are encouraged to learn to work, share, take turns and co-operate with others. They are encouraged to be independent and make choices for themselves. They are also encouraged to be sensitive to the needs of others and to respect other cultures and beliefs. Children are enabled to become confident and develop a positive self image.

The SEAL programme of study allows PSED key skills to be taught each day during circle time activities with PSED interventions for individual children put into place if required.

EYFS children also have full access to the Kaleidoscope programme with small group and one to one interventions taking place when needed.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Children are given opportunities to move to music, use equipment, develop and practice their fine and gross motor skills. They develop an increasing understanding of how their body works and what is needed to be healthy. This is done in both indoor and outdoor and by working with a wide range of resources.

EYFS children have access to quality PD time (five sessions per week) with a Sports Apprentice who helps to develop Gross and therefore Fine Motor skills in all children.

All children in Nursery take part in Dough Gym from Autumn 2 three times a week, with those children needing extra intervention having daily Dough Gym sessions. Dough gym continues in Reception as an intervention for those children whose fine motor skills need strengthening.

## COMMUNICATION and LANGUAGE

This covers all aspects of language development and provides the foundation for literacy skills.

Children's developing competence in speaking and listening is focused on. We aim to extend and enrich the children's vocabulary through story time, rhymes, role-play and group discussions. Children are encouraged to share their own experiences through speaking and acting out events in imaginative play and talking about their own ideas. They are encouraged to take part in class activities such as working with puppets, participating in music sessions and saying rhymes and singing songs together.

EYFS children who need extra support in Communication and Language can access the 'Let's Talk' programme which is run in school by a trained member of staff.

## LITERACY

We have a variety of resources for the children to use to help them develop early literacy skills.

Children are encouraged to use the mark-making areas indoors and outdoors independently but they also take part in teacher-led activities. These activities include whole class shared reading, phonics sessions and small group guided reading and writing. The pre-writing work (Busy Books in Nursery) encourages correct pencil control, left/right orientation and letter formation. Children have the opportunity to develop their writing skills in accordance with their age, ability and competence. We encourage children to treat books and other resources with respect and they are given many opportunities to listen to stories told by the staff.

The Letters and Sounds Phonic scheme – Phase One, is taught thoroughly in Nursery and Aspect Seven (Oral Blending and Segmenting) is developed throughout the Spring and Summer term. Intervention groups for children needing aspects 1-6 are also planned and delivered through the Spring and Summer terms.

The Read Write Inc phonics scheme is introduced in Spring 2 in the Nursery. Each letter sound is introduced in order and the Nursery children and parents are encouraged to learn the rhymes, phonemes, and if physically ready to form the graphemes. The Read, Write Inc scheme begins to be taught thoroughly and consistently from Autumn 1 in Reception.

### MATHEMATICS

We aim for children to achieve mathematical understanding and a firm foundation for numeracy through practical activities and using and understanding language in the development of simple mathematical ideas. Pre-number work is covered through nursery rhymes and number activities. Children are given the opportunity to learn about number, shape, space, position, pattern and measurement. Towards the end of the Early Years Foundation stage children start learning to tell the time and are given opportunities to learn about money and simple calculations.

### UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

All children are given opportunities to solve problems, investigate, make decisions and experiment. They will learn about living things, their environment, the world around them and the people who are important in their lives. Children are also given opportunities to develop computing skills and to work with and use modern technology.

### EXPRESSIVE ARTS and DESIGN

We provide opportunities for all children to explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of art, design, technology, music, drama, movement, dance and imaginative play activities. Children are given opportunities to make paintings, drawings, collages, models and use basic musical instruments. Children also learn new songs and rhymes and enjoy singing them with each other. Colour recognition is taught, naming colours, mixing paints, sorting and matching through various times during the year children are given the opportunity to participate in school productions.

Through careful assessments and observations, including information provided by parents and other settings, children's development levels are assessed and tracked on the Target Tracker school system. The balance will shift towards a more equal focus on all areas of learning as children grow in confidence and ability within the three prime areas. However, if a child's progress in any prime area gives cause for concern, staff will discuss this with the child's parents and/or carers and agree how to support the child. This may also include a discussion with the Inclusion manager in order to access Special Educational Needs support.

Planning and guided children's activities will reflect on the different ways that children learn and reflect these in their practice. At Abbey Park Primary Academy school we support children in using the three characteristics of effective teaching and learning. These are;

- **playing and exploring** - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go';
- **active learning** - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements; and
- **Creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

(Taken from statutory framework for the EYFS 2012)

## **Equal Opportunities**

All members of the school are treated as individuals. We aim to meet the needs of all, taking account of gender, ability, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, sexual orientation, age, special educational needs, disability, and social circumstances. All staff are aware of the need for the curriculum to reflect cultural diversity and the need to prepare pupils for life in a diverse and multi-faith society.

## **Health and Safety**

At Abbey Park Primary School, there are clear procedures for assessing risk (see whole school risk assessment policy and Early Years Risk Assessment Policy) which includes procedures for keeping children safe during outings and for any aspects of the environment or provision that may require a further risk assessment. In addition to this, a daily risk assessment is conducted of the EYFS (see EYFS risk assessment) and in the staff handbook, Safeguarding, Intimate Care Needs and Child Protection policies, there is detailed information and procedures to ensure the safety of the children.

In line with the EYFS statutory framework 2012, at Abbey Park Primary Academy we undertake;

- A whole school medicines policy ensuring that there are systems in place to ensure that medicines and the systems for obtaining information about a child's needs for medication are kept up to date. Medicines will not be administered unless they have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist. Training is provided for staff where the administration of medicine requires medical or technical knowledge. Medicines (both prescription and non-prescription) are only administered to a child where written permission for that particular medicine has been obtained from the child's parent and/or carer.

At Abbey Park Primary Academy a written record is kept each time a medicine is administered to a child and informs the child's parents and/or carers on the same day. (Statutory framework for EYFS 2012)

- Fresh drinking water is available at all times
- Children's' dietary needs are recorded and acted upon when required
- Each classroom has a snack and sink area that can provide healthy snacks and drinks.
- A first aid box is accessible at all times and a record of accidents and injuries is kept as of September 2012, some Teaching assistants are paediatric first aid trained.
- A health and safety policy and procedures which cover identifying, reporting and dealing with accidents, hazards and faulty equipment.
- A fire and emergency evacuation procedure and policy
- Appropriate clothing, in particular in relation to the wearing of heels (stilettos or a heel that comes to a point). Staff are expected to wear clothing that supports them in getting to a child's level and playing and engaging with children at floor level.

## **Transition**

During the summer term prior to a child's entry into the Reception year, the following procedures have been put into place to ensure successful transition

- Parents are invited to a meeting to ensure they know about school procedures and allocation of classes and any concerns they may want to express.



- Children from Abbey Park Primary Academy School Nursery will spend transition sessions in Reception class learning the new routines and rules of Reception class.
- Reception class teachers will visit children who have not attended Abbey Park Primary Academy School Nursery for 'getting to know you' time.
- Children requiring extra support will have additional visits regardless of their setting. Often these children will have been identified as requiring additional support through outside agencies.

### **From Reception Class to Key Stage 1**

During the final term in Reception, the EYFS Profile is completed for each child. The Profile provides parents and carers, staff and teachers with a well-rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities, their progress against expected levels, and their readiness for Year 1. The Profile includes on-going observation, all relevant records held by the setting, discussions with parents and carers, and any other adults whom the teacher, parent or carer judges can offer a useful contribution.

Each child's level of development is assessed against the early learning goals. The profile indicates whether children are meeting expected levels of development, or if they are exceeding expected levels, or not yet reaching expected levels ('emerging'). Year 1 teachers are given a copy of the Profile report together with a short commentary on each child's skills and abilities in relation to the three key characteristics of effective learning. This informs the dialogue between Reception and Year 1 teachers about each child's stage of development and learning needs and assists with the planning of activities in Year 1.

### **MONITORING and REVIEW**

It is the responsibility of the EYFS staff to follow this policy. The Senior Leadership Team will carry out monitoring on the EYFS as part of the whole school monitoring system. This policy will be reviewed before the start of each academic year and will evolve to incorporate the views of all staff concerned

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