



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) policy

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Date Approved by FGB:	May 2023
Next Review Date:	May 2024
Version Control:	V3

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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure:

- That children access a broad and balanced curriculum that gives them the broad range of knowledge and skills needed for good progress through school and life
- Quality and consistency in teaching and learning so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind
- Close partnership working between practitioners and with parents and/or carers
- Every child is included and supported through equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice

2. Legislation

This policy is based on requirements set out in the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) that applies from September 2021](#).

3. Structure of the EYFS

At William Harding, we have a 2 year old room with 12 am spaces or 12 pm spaces offering up to 32 and a ½ hours. We have a 3 and 4 year old room with 48 spaces, offering up to 32 and a 1/2 hours.

Eligible parents will be able to access their funded entitlement hours.

We also have 4 reception classes, offering a total of 120 places full school time hours.

4. Curriculum

Our early years setting follows the statutory curriculum requirements as outlined in the latest version of the EYFS statutory framework that applies from September 2021. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum that covers the statutory aspects as well as other knowledge and skills to support pupils' personal development, prepare pupils for their next stage of education and support them to develop as a whole child.

The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. However, 3 areas known as the prime areas are seen as particularly important for igniting

curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building children's capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

The prime areas are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

The prime areas are strengthened and applied through 4 specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

These are also underpinned by the characteristics of Effective Learning, as detailed in the framework.

4.1 Planning

Staff plan activities and experiences for children that enable children to develop and learn effectively across all areas of learning, as well as offering them cultural capital opportunities to increase their experiences and broaden their understanding of the world around them. In order to do this, practitioners working with the youngest children are expected to focus strongly on the 3 prime areas.

Staff also consider the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child in their care, and use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable curriculum. Where a child may have a special educational need or disability, staff consider whether specialist support is required, linking with relevant services from other agencies, where appropriate.

In planning and guiding children's activities, practitioners reflect on the different ways that children learn and include these in their practice. This is reflected in our intent for our EYFS curriculum which is ambitious for all.

Staff are expected to develop a strong continuous provision, and then plan enhanced provision and additional adult directed activities to support this. As children progress through the Early Years Foundation Stage, key group work, adult-directed and whole class work will be planned, as appropriate for the age and stage of the pupils.

4.2 Teaching

Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play, and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Practitioners respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction.

As children grow older, and as their development allows, the balance gradually shifts towards more adult-led activities to help children prepare for more formal learning, ready for their next stage of education.

Timetables are set for each room/year group and are adapted based on the needs of each cohort and the age of pupils within the setting.

5. Assessment

At William Harding, ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning and development processes. Staff observe pupils to identify their level of achievement, interests and learning styles. These observations are used to shape future planning. Practitioners also take into account observations shared by parents and/or

carers. This is all completed on tapestry. All practitioners are expected to show an understanding of what the pupils know and can do and what their next steps in learning are. They regularly discuss this with leaders to ensure we meet the needs of all pupils within the setting and we adapt timetables, the environment and planning to ensure we continue to be ambitious for all pupils.

When a child is aged between 2 and 3, practitioners review their progress and provide parents and/or carers with a written summary of the child's development in the 3 prime areas. This 'progress check' highlights the areas in which a child is progressing well and the areas in which additional support is needed.

Within the first 6 weeks that a child **starts reception**, staff will administer the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA).

At the end of the EYFS, staff complete the EYFS profile for each child. Pupils are assessed against the 17 early learning goals, indicating whether they are:

- Meeting expected levels of development (expected) or,
- Not yet reaching expected levels ('working towards')

The profile reflects ongoing observations and discussions with parents and/or carers. The results of the profile are then shared with parents and/or carers.

The profile is moderated internally (referring to the Development Matters [guidance](#) and our own in school curriculum documents) and in partnership with other local schools, to ensure consistent assessment judgements. EYFS profile data is submitted to the local authority.

6. 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. The progress check and EYFS profile helps to provide parents and/or carers with a well-rounded picture of their child's knowledge, understanding and abilities.

Each child is assigned a key person who helps to ensure that their learning and care is tailored to meet their needs. The key person supports parents and/or carers in guiding their child's development at home. The key person also helps families to engage with more specialist support, if appropriate.

7. Safeguarding and welfare procedures

We promote good oral health, as well as good health in general, in the early years through our curriculum, for example by talking to children about:

- The effects of eating too many sweet things
- The importance of brushing your teeth

We also teach E-safety and stranger danger across our EYFS in age appropriate ways.

The rest of our safeguarding and welfare procedures are outlined in our safeguarding policy.

8. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Senior Leadership Team every year.

At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board for ratification.

Appendix 1. List of statutory policies and procedures for the EYFS

Statutory policy or procedure for the EYFS	Where can it be found?
Safeguarding policy and procedures	See Child Protection and Safeguarding policy (website)
Procedure for responding to illness	See Health and Safety policy (available on request from the office)
Administering medicines policy	See Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy (available on request from the office)
Procedure for checking the identity of visitors	See Child Protection and Safeguarding policy (website)
Procedures for a parent failing to collect a child and for missing children	See Child Protection and Safeguarding policy and Preschool Terms and Conditions (website)
Procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints	See Complaints policy (website)