



Naunton Park Primary School

EYFS Policy

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1.0 Introduction and aims

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of the reception year. In our school, following an induction period in Autumn One, the children start school full time in the academic year in which they will turn five. The EYFS is important in its own right, and in preparing children for later schooling. The Early Learning Goals set out what is expected of most children by the end of the Foundation Stage.

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
- A close working partnership between staff and parents and/or carers
- Every child is included and supported through equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice
- 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, challenging, stimulating, caring and happy environment with motivating and enjoyable learning experiences that enable children to become confident and independent.
- We provide a broad, balanced, relevant and creative curriculum that will set in place firm foundations for future learning and development.
- We work alongside parents and others to meet their needs and help every child to reach their full potential.

2.0 EYFS 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 the early learning goals.

All the seven areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These three areas are the **prime** areas:

- **Communication and Language**
- **Physical Development**
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

Children are also supported through the four **specific** areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

The **specific** areas are:

- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

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

The school continues to undergo necessary changes to ensure they are constructing an inclusive curriculum that is broad and balanced and highly ambitious.

The Development of the Early CHALLENGE Curriculum is centered on a rich reading spine. Carefully planned activities will be led by the text and by children's responses to it. The text will lead the learning and knowledge in all areas of learning and through both whole class teaching and continuous provision. Each main text will lead the learning over a 3-week period, both in outdoor and indoor provision. Additional texts will support Talk 4 Writing and book talk in Talk 4 Reading. Can Do Maths will be a stand-alone lesson as will Sounds-Write phonics teaching. Daily Sounds Write phonics sessions provide daily opportunities for segmenting and blending the sounds in words to read and write them, whilst becoming familiar with the formation of individual letters too.

Continuous provision will support the teacher to lead and enable children to access different provision areas initiating their own learning, practising, developing skills independently or with the support of an adult and enhancement activities to extend learning further. Resources will be available every day and may link directly to a prior teacher-led activity. Core resources will be available that children can use during the year, all of the time, enabling children to focus on fewer things in greater depth. The unique design of our school curriculum enables quality work on key concepts, deepening children's understanding over time. Learning is also anchored in valuable key experiences, imparting new knowledge. We focus on developing the learner as an individual, to be curious, independent, resilient, resourceful and thoughtful.

Our EYFS curriculum is planned around the Talk 4 Writing lead text ensuring that links are made to other curriculum areas e.g. Owl Babies: – Understanding of the world – nocturnal animals, Personal Social and Health Education – how the owls felt, creative development – manipulating clay to create an owl etc.  National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) provides the planning for mathematical development. Phonics is delivered through Sounds Write.

As a team, we write plans for the Early Challenge Curriculum, ensuring there are experiences in all seven areas. Assessments inform short-term weekly planning, alongside our observations, which remains flexible for unplanned circumstances or children's responses and interests.

Relevant link [Naunton Park Primary School - EYFS](#)

2.1 Four Themes

Within the EYFS guidance the four themes directly relate to the principles. Subsequent good practice ensures they all work together for children in the Foundation Stage.

1. Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
2. Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**
3. 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

4. Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates

2.2 Principles into practice

As part of our practice, we fulfil our aims and we:

- Provide a balanced curriculum, based on the EYFS, across the seven areas of learning, through planned purposeful play
- Promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. We provide early intervention for those children who require additional support
- Use and value what each child can do, assessing their individual needs and helping each child to progress
- Provide opportunities for children to engage in activities that are adult led, adult-initiated and child-initiated (sometimes supported by the adult).

3.0 Teaching and Learning

Our school's Teaching and Learning policy defines the features of effective teaching and learning. These features apply to teaching and learning in the EYFS just as much as they do to the teaching in Key Stage 2.

3.1 Good Practice

The more general features of good practice that relate to the EYFS are:

- the partnership between teacher and parents/carers, so that our children feel secure at school and develop a sense of well-being and achievement;
- the understanding that the teacher has of how the children develop and learn, and how this affects their teaching;
- the range of approaches used that provides first-hand experiences, give clear explanations, make appropriate interventions and extend and develop play and talk or other means of communication;
- the carefully planned curriculum that helps children 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 space, facilities and equipment;
- the identification of the progress and future learning needs of children through observations, which are shared with parents;
- the good relationships between our school and settings that our children experience prior to 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 EYFS

Children have whole group and small group times which increase as they progress through the EYFS. They will also be able to access continuous provision resources in and outside the classroom. The curriculum is delivered using a play-based approach as outlined by the EYFS.

“Each area of learning and development must be implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities” EYFS Statutory Framework, 2012, Para 1.9, page 6, DfE.

3.2 Planning

We plan a balance between children having time and space to engage in their own child-initiated activities through continuous provision and those that are modelled and delivered by the adults. During children's play, early years practitioners interact to stretch and challenge children further.

In planning and guiding children's activities, staff reflect on the different ways that children learn and include these in their practice.

We create a stimulating environment to encourage children to independently access the indoor and outside environments.

Staff plan support enhancements that add to learning within continuous provision. Enhancements can be resourcing or questioning that enables children to reflect prior learning and elevate it. Planning for experiences that also enable children to develop and learn effectively. In order to do this, staff working with the youngest children are expected to focus strongly on the 3 prime areas.

Staff also take into account the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child in their care, and use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience. 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.

4.0 Observation and Assessment

As part of our daily practice, we observe and assess children's development and learning to inform our future plans. We record our observations in a variety of ways. Everyone is encouraged to contribute and discussions take place. Significant observations of children's achievements are collated in class floor book with annotations sharing the child's voice attached. Also photographs, recorded work and images may be collated in each child's activity book or displayed in the classroom.

Children complete the statutory baseline assessment on starting school in September. This baseline needs completing in the first 4 weeks at school. Ongoing observations are used to enable staff to update the school assessment system (INSIGHT) every term/half term and data informs future planning and when reporting to parents. Parents are invited to attend a parents evening in autumn and spring terms and reports are written twice a year. The final report at year end will inform parents of their child's progress against the Early Learning Goal for each area of learning (EYFSP).

Wow slips completed by parents to enable school staff to be aware of successes achieved at home and certificates for out of school clubs are shared with the whole class. Two children are chosen weekly for a class certificate that recognises their ability to keep the school rules or attitude to learning. Their parents are invited to attend the Friday certificate assembly.

5.0 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, assess risks 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. To enable independent learning and extend development further the class bases have two full time teachers and TP's to support and extend learning through careful use of resources, questions and building on previous learning. Monitoring of the outside area is undertaken by one or two members of the reception team on a rotational basis, depending on the number of users.

6.0 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, the EYFS team and the inclusion lead work closely with parents and outside agencies

7.0 Parents as Partners and the Wider context

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, by attending Curriculum Evening at the beginning of the year, arranging a New Parents' Meeting, building relationships with home visits in Term 6, commenting in reading diaries, completing activities at home that are linked to the topic, helping on trips, attending open classrooms and parents' consultation evenings. There are daily opportunities to talk at drop off and pick up times.

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, e.g. Speech and Language Therapists (SALT), Advisory Teaching Service, Occupational Therapy.

We draw on our links with the community to enrich children's experiences by taking them on outings/inviting members of the community into our setting.

8.0 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 (especially on-site Naunton Park Pre-School Playgroup). Children have a visit to their new class in the Summer Term to develop a familiarity with the setting and practitioners.

In the summer term, parents can also opt for a home-visit. This enables the class-teacher and teaching assistant to visit the child and their family in their home. The child receives a 'Starting School' pack and the opportunity again enables the child to re-acquaint with school staff and for the parents to talk more informally with them and share information relating to medical needs. The parents are left with an 'My Profile' information sheet to complete which will inform school staff about the child and allows parents to identify things that support or may be barriers to each individual as a learner at school.

In the final term in Reception, the respective teacher and Year 1 teacher liaise to discuss the individual children and their needs and to analyse the assessment data to inform planning.

9.0 Monitoring and Review

It is the responsibility of the reception teachers to follow the principles stated in this policy. There is a named governor responsible for the EYFS. This governor has the opportunity to discuss EYFS practice with the practitioners and provide feedback to the whole Governing Board, raising any issues that require discussion. The Headteacher and subject co-ordinators carry out monitoring of the EYFS through observation and discussion as part of the whole school monitoring schedule.