



# School Policy



# Early Years

Autumn 2021



**Lightmoor Village Primary School**  
**Early Years Foundation Stage Policy**  
**September 2021**

This policy has been written with reference to the documents:

- **Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021**
- **Development Matters Non-Statutory Curriculum Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021**
- **Birth to Five Matters Non-Statutory Curriculum Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021**

*“Every child deserves the best possible start in life, and the support that enables them to reach that potential. Children develop quickly in the Early Years, and a child’s experiences between birth and five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, happy and safe childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.”*

**Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021.**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from Birth to the end of the Reception year. We recognise that every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning, 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 celebrating success, to encourage children to develop a positive attitude to learning.

The EYFS is based upon three characteristics of effective learning which practitioners must reflect upon and adjust their practice accordingly:

- 1. Playing and exploring** – Children investigate and experience things and ‘have a go.’
- 2. Active learning** – Children concentrate and keep on going if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy their achievements.
- 3. Creating and thinking critically** – Children develop and have their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

There are seven main areas of learning and development in the EYFS. All areas are important and interconnected.

**The Three prime areas of learning are:**

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

Additionally, there are four specific areas of learning, in which the prime areas are strengthened and applied:

- **Literacy.**
- **Mathematics.**
- **Understanding the world.**
- **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. In each area there are Early Learning Goals (ELG's) that define the expectations for most children to reach by the end of the EYFS. We recognise that children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates. We value all areas of learning and development equally and understand that they are interconnected.

## **The Learning Environment**

The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending the children's development. This begins by adult observation of the children and assessing their interests, development and learning, before planning challenging but achievable activities and experiences to extend the children's learning.

The EYFS classroom is organised to allow children to explore and learn securely and safely. There are areas where the children can be active, be quiet and rest. The classroom both inside and out is set up in learning areas, where children are able to find and locate equipment and resources. We encourage the children to become independent in choosing and using their own equipment and resources for play and in developing their own learning. There is a gradual build-up of autonomy which aims to help children grow up into adults who are able to take care of themselves. The children have access to outdoor learning throughout the day. This has a positive effect on the children's development. Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors. It offers the children opportunities to explore, use their senses and be physically active and exuberant. Activities and resources are provided for the children to access outdoors that help the children to develop in all areas of learning.

## **Play**

"Children's play reflects their wide ranging and varied interests and preoccupations. In their play children learn at their highest level. Play with peers is important for children's development."

Through play our children explore and develop learning experiences, which help them make sense of the world. They practice and build up ideas and learn how to control themselves and understand the need for rules. They have the opportunity to think creatively alongside other children as well as on their own. They communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems. They express fears or re-live anxious experiences in controlled and safe situations.

We plan for a range of play opportunities for our children including:

- Child initiated – where children plan, carry out and evaluate their play.
- Adult directed – where an adult describes what a child is expected to do to ensure focused learning in a particular area.
- Child led/independent learning – where children choose from a group of activities but develop the play themselves.

## **Observation, Assessment and Planning**

The planning within the EYFS follows a combination of key objectives taken from the

Government document 'Development Matters, Non-Statutory Guidance for the Early Years

Foundation Stage 2021' and 'Birth to Five Matters, Non-Statutory Guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021'. This guidance is used by the EYFS teachers as a guide for weekly planning. The weekly planning is based on the assessed needs of the children, building on their achievements, interests and next steps in learning.

Regular assessments of children's learning are made; this information is used to ensure that future planning reflects identified needs. Assessment in the EYFS takes the form of observation, and this involves the teacher and other adults as appropriate. These observations are recorded and stored digitally on Tapestry.

We track the progress of the children across EYFS to surmise whether they are working at expected age, below or above expected age. This is updated termly and discussed in pupil progress meetings with the Deputy Head teacher our assessment coordinator. Next steps at the end of each term are shared with parents and carers via Tapestry. In the final term of the EYFS, a written summary is given to parents, reporting their child's progress. Data is analysed to look for patterns and trends. This information informs the School Development Plan. Information is also shared with the children's Year 1 teachers to help ensure a smooth transition into the National Curriculum.

### Baseline assessment

Our approach to baseline assessment ensures that we get an accurate picture of each child. On entry to Foundation Stage, children are assessed using the Government's Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA). The assessment is carried out by the class teacher during the first 6 weeks of starting school. The assessment will be used as a baseline for measuring the progress primary schools make with their pupils. It will be a practitioner-led, activity-based assessment of children's early literacy, communication and language and early mathematics skills.

### Parents as Partners

Parents/Carers are children's first and most enduring educators and we value the contribution that parents make. Children's well-being is best fostered when parents and educators combine their knowledge of the child. We recognise the role that parents have played, and their future role, in educating their children.

The partnership is achieved by providing opportunities by:

- Talking to parents about their child before their child starts school. Home visits or telephone calls are carried out in the Summer Term before children starts school. Two members of school staff carry out visits. The teachers talk to the parent about their child and answers any questions.
- Inviting children to spend time with their teacher in the Summer term before school starts.
- Parents are invited to attend an EYFS induction where the Head Teacher and Reception teacher explains the curriculum/ starting school process.
- Encouraging parents to talk to their child's teacher/key person about any concerns they may have.
- Shortly after starting school parents of children in Reception are invited to discuss progress and how the child is settling in.
- Parents receive a written report on their child's attainment and progress at the end of the academic year.
- Arranging a range of activities throughout the year that encourage collaboration between child, school and parents. For example, fund raising days, themed activity days and sports day.
- Wow moments are sent home, these are slips in which parents can fill details of any particular achievements of their child at home which in turn gives knowledge to the teacher for assessments that can be shared and celebrated.

All staff involved with the EYFS aim to develop good relationships with all children, interacting positively with them and taking time to listen to them. At our school the class teacher acts as a 'Key Person' to all children in within the EYFS, and is supported by Teaching Assistants.

We have excellent links with our local nursery in the village and will visit any other settings before children start.

## **Inclusion**

Another aim of the home/school partnership approach is to enable early accurate identification of the child's potential need for support in some areas of growth, development or learning, and to collaborate with parents to create a common strategy for supporting the child. We value the diversity of individuals within the school and do not discriminate against children because of 'differences'. All children are treated fairly, regardless of race, religion or abilities. All children and their families are valued within our school. In our school we believe that all our children matter. We provide every child the opportunity to achieve their best. We do this by taking account of our children's range of life experiences when planning for their learning.

In the EYFS we set realistic but challenging expectations that meet the needs of our children.

This is achieved 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.

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. Safeguarding

It is important to us that all children in school are 'safe'. We aim to educate children within boundaries, rules and limits and to help them understand why they exist. We offer children 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 wellbeing of all children. (See our Safeguarding Policy). We understand that we are legally required to comply with certain welfare requirements. We understand that we are required to:

- Promote the welfare of children. In promoting personal well-being, the focus is on respect for each child's individuality. This allows children to act and develop as their own unique personalities.
- 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 experiences tailored to meet their needs.

- Maintain records, policies and procedures required for safe efficient management of the setting and to meet the needs of the children.

### **Positive Relationships**

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.

### **Monitoring and review**

It is the responsibility of all EYFS staff to follow the principles stated in this policy. There is a named Governor responsible for the EYFS, Helen Oldham. This governor will discuss EYFS practice with the practitioners regularly and provide feedback to the whole governing body, raising any issues that require discussion. The Head teacher and EYFS lead (DHT) will carry out monitoring on the EYFS as part of the whole school monitoring schedule.

### **Review Date September 2022**

The Governors of Lightmoor Village Primary School have agreed the following policy for Early Years. This is in line with the curriculum aims recommended by Telford & Wrekin LA, which were adapted and adopted by the Governors of this school.

Reviewed September 21-22

Review Date: September 2022 (or earlier if there are significant changes nationally)