



Emmaville Primary School

Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

Early Years Co-ordinator: Katherine Wallace

Introduction

Within this document, the term Early Years Foundation Stage (Early Years/EYFS) is used to describe children who are in our Two-year-old provision (Purple Poppies), Nursery and Reception classes.

Our Aim

At Emmaville Primary School 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 and happy environment with motivating and enjoyable learning experiences that enable children to become confident and independent. We value the individual child and work alongside parents and others to meet their needs and help every child to reach their full potential.

As outlined in the Early Years curriculum - 'Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances.'

We adhere to the Statutory Framework of the EYFS and the four guiding principles that shape practice within Early Years settings:

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.

Principles into practice

As part of our practice we:

- Provide a balanced curriculum, based on the EYFS, across the seven areas of learning, using play as the vehicle for learning.
- Promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. We provide early intervention for those children who require additional support.
- Work in partnership with parents and within the wider context.
- Plan challenging learning experiences, based on the individual child, informed by observation and assessment.

Early Years Foundation Stage 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 and exceed 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:

1. Communication and Language
2. Physical Development
3. 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:

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

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

As a team, we write long term and medium term plans which offer experiences in all seven areas. Please see our plans for more details. These plans then inform our short-term weekly planning, alongside our observations, which remains flexible for unplanned circumstances or children's responses.

When children first enter the setting there is a strong focus on the three prime areas, which are the basis for successful learning in the other four specific areas. The three prime areas reflect the key skills and capacities all children need to develop and learn effectively, and become ready for school. The balance will shift towards a more equal focus on all areas of learning as the children move through the Early Years at Emmaville and grow in confidence and ability within the three prime areas.

Children experience adult led sessions throughout their nursery or Reception day.

Adult Led sessions in nursery include:

Dough Disco

Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle

'Phase 1' phonics and 'Phase 2' phonics in the summer term for those beginning Reception

Maths following White Rose maths principles and NCETM materials

Talk for Writing sessions

PSED Jigsaw sessions

Adult Led sessions in Reception include:

Phonics following Read Write Inc.

Talk for Writing sessions

Maths - following White Rose maths principles and NCETM Mastering Number
PE lessons

PSED Jigsaw sessions

RE sessions

French sessions

'Friday Rotation' - all of the children complete a carousel of sessions to experience adult led learning activities in Understanding of The World and Expressive Art and Design.

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'.

- We plan a balance between children having time and space to engage in their own child-initiated activities and those that are planned by the adults. During children's play, early years' practitioners interact to stretch and challenge children further.
- In planning and guiding children's activities, we reflect as practitioners on the different ways that children learn and reflect these in our practice.
- We create a stimulating environment to encourage children to learn inside and out.

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 their own personal, electronic learning journey using iPads and Tapestry.

Parents are invited to attend a parents evening in Autumn Term and Spring Term. In Reception, parents receive a short Baseline report. In the final term of Reception and Nursery we provide the parent's with a report based on their child's development against each of the Early Learning Goals and the Characteristics of their Learning.

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 and assess risks. We have stringent policies, procedures and documents in place to ensure children's safety. We promote the good health of the children in our care in numerous ways and follow set procedures when children become ill or have an accident.

Please see our separate policies and procedures on Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Child Protection.

Inclusion

We value all our children as individuals at Emmaville Primary, 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 support 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, work closely with parents and outside agencies.

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 and care in numerous ways.

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.

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

Transitions

From home and other settings: 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. Children and their parents/carers are invited to visit the setting to develop familiarity with the setting and practitioners.

Nursery to Reception:

Children are given opportunities to visit and learn within the Reception classrooms many times during the summer term, before they begin Reception at Stay and Play sessions.

All children are visited in their nursery or pre-school setting to gather information from their current keyworker.

All children are offered a Home Visit.

Reception to KS1:

A planned diary of activities, beginning in the final term in Reception. This includes PSHE sessions linked to transitions, play sessions in Reception supported by Year 1 staff, story sessions in Year 1 classrooms with Year 1 staff, step up morning and information sessions for parents in person and via Tapestry.

The Year 1 teachers will meet with the Early Years staff and discuss each child's development against the Early Learning Goals in order to support a smooth transition to Year 1. This discussion helps the Year 1 teacher to plan an

effective, responsive and appropriate curriculum that will meet the needs of all children.

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.

Mrs Katherine Wallace - EYFS Coordinator updated July 2026