

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) policy

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 2017 statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

3. Structure of the EYFS

Our school covers two year groups of Nursery aged children, aged between 2 and 4 years old. Children are offered a 30 hour place or 15 hour place depending on their eligibility. Two year olds are either eligible for two-year funding or can pay for their sessions. From April 2024, children of working parents are also eligible for 15 hours funding. This increases in September 2025 to 30 hours. Parents can pay to top up their hours for a Breakfast Club or After School club ran by school staff.

4. Curriculum

Our early years setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the 2023 statutory framework of the EYFS.

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

4.1 Planning

Staff plan activities and experiences for children that enable children to develop and learn effectively. In order to do this, practitioners 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.

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

Staff meet weekly to discuss the needs of the children and evaluate the continuous provision as well as taught lessons.

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 Reception.

5. Assessment

At Tudhoe Moor Nursery School, 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.

We use Tapestry, an online learning journal to share photographs and observations of children with their parents. We also assess three times a year using a system we have developed ourselves to fit with the new curriculum- once on entry, once midway through the year (around February) and once on exit during the summer.

Parents receive a written report on exit from Nursery.

Our two year children receive a two year progress report, in line with EYFS recommendations. We also take part in integrated reviews with Health Visitors and families for a more robust approach to a child's development.

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.

We hold parent's evenings three times a year and hold informal 'Stay and Play' sessions themed around areas of learning so that parents can come and see activities and lessons that we do with children.

7. Safeguarding and welfare procedures

Our safeguarding and welfare procedures are outlined in our safeguarding policy.

8. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by Julia Hymers every year

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

Date of review:	March 2025
Date of next review:	March 2026

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
Procedure for responding to illness	See health and safety policy
Administering medicines policy	See supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
Emergency evacuation procedure	See health and safety policy
Procedure for checking the identity of visitors	See child protection and safeguarding policy
Procedures for a parent failing to collect a child and for missing children	See child protection and safeguarding policy
Procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints	See complaints policy