

Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

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<b>Committee Responsible for Policy</b>	Standards, Teaching and Learning
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## **Growing together as children of God**

At Holy Trinity C of E Primary School:

We want our pupils to grow in confidence, independence, resilience and knowledge, so that all achieve their full potential and develop a life-long love of learning and of the world around us.

we work together with families, community and church to model positive relationships, supporting each other and acknowledging that we are stronger when we work together.

we are growing together as children of God, strengthening our faith, secure in the knowledge we are unique, loved and cherished

### **Biblical Basis Galatians 5:22-23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

## **Introduction**

The Early Years Foundation Stage extends from the age of birth to the end of the reception year. Entry into Reception at Holy Trinity is at the beginning of the school year in which the children are five (although compulsory schooling does not begin until the start of the term after a child's fifth birthday).

The Foundation Stage is important because it is in the foundation years that children develop learning attitudes, skills, social integration and personal organisation.

At Holy Trinity, we believe it is important to provide an Early Years education that aims to meet the individual needs of every child in our care. Children are made to feel safe and secure and are valued as individuals. Independence is fostered as are positive attitudes to learning and each child is encouraged to reach their full potential regardless of their ethnic and socio-economic background, race, gender, creed or ability.

This Policy is written in conjunction with The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

## Aims

The Foundation Stage Curriculum at Holy Trinity provides a high-quality teaching programme which promotes children's learning.

We aim to support all children to become independent and collaborative learners. We will provide a broad and balanced curriculum that will enable each child to develop personally, socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically, creatively and intellectually to their full potential.

During their time in Nursery and Reception, children are supported to make strong progress from their individual starting points. Practitioners plan a curriculum that is ambitious and inclusive, enabling children to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to succeed in school and beyond. At the end of the Reception year children are assessed in line with the Early Learning Goals. The Early Learning Goals describe the expected level of development at the end of Reception and are used as a summative assessment.

The Early Learning Goals set high expectations for the end of the Foundation Stage, but expectations that are achievable for most children. This will help to give children secure foundations on which future learning can be built.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies: Admissions, Behaviour, SEN policy, Child Protection, Equality and Home School Agreement

## Teaching and Learning Style

Our policy on teaching and learning defines the features of effective teaching and learning in our school. These features apply to teaching and learning in the Foundation Stage just as much as they do to the teaching and learning in Key Stage 1 or 2.

The more general features of good practice in our school that relate to the Foundation Stage are:

- the partnership between teachers and parents, so that our children feel secure at school and develop a sense of well-being and achievement;
- the understanding that teachers have of how children develop and learn, and how this affects their teaching;
- the range of approaches used that provide 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 regularly shared with parents;
- the good relationships between our school and the settings that our children experience prior to joining our 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 Foundation Stage.

Adults play a crucial role in supporting children's learning through high-quality interactions. Practitioners observe children closely, listen carefully, model language, ask thoughtful questions and know when to intervene and when to step back.

When helping young children learn there are three main characteristics of effective teaching and learning which are:

**playing and exploring** - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go';

**active learning** - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements; and

**creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

### Play in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Through play, our children explore and develop the learning experiences that help them make sense of the world. They practice and build up their ideas, learn how to control themselves, and begin to understand the need for rules. They have the opportunity to think creatively both alongside other children and 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. Within the foundation years there is a mix of adult led and child-initiated play. Whenever possible adults will interact with children within their play modelling, promoting and extending their language.

### Inclusion in the Early Years Foundation Stage

At Holy Trinity we believe that all our children are unique. We give our children every opportunity to achieve their best. We do this by taking account of our children's range of life experiences when planning for their learning (see our policy on school inclusion).

In the Foundation Stage we set realistic and challenging expectations that meet the needs of our children,

so that most achieve the Early Learning Goals by the end of the stage. Some children progress beyond this point. We achieve this 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;
- developing their skills and knowledge to prepare them for their learning within KS1 and KS2
- monitoring children's progress and taking action to provide support as necessary;
- where support is necessary we work in partnership with parents, EYFS SENDCo and SENDCo and any outside agencies as early as possible, in line with the SEND Code of Practice.

### **The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum**

Our curriculum for the Foundation Stage reflects the areas of learning identified in the new EYFS framework. There are seven areas of learning, 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 of learning are called the prime areas which are:

Communication and language

Physical development

Personal, social and emotional development

There are four other areas which are called the specific areas, these are:

Literacy;

Mathematics;

Understanding the World;

Expressive Arts and Design

### Communication and language

Involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich environment of language, develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations. The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development.

### Physical development

Involves giving children opportunities to develop their gross and fine motor skills. To explore different games and activities inside and outside which will develop their coordination, spatial awareness and moving their bodies in different ways. To give opportunities to develop the children's fine motor skills through various activities which will then support their hand eye coordination and later their literacy skills.

### Personal, social and emotional development

This area of learning incorporates attitudes, skills and understanding and is a pre-condition for children's success in all other learning. They will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and manage personal needs independently. The child's personal, social, emotional, moral and spiritual development is targeted and good attitudes towards all aspects of school life are promoted. This is in line with the whole school ethos of 'Growing Together as Children of God'.

The children in the Foundation Stage work towards the Early Learning Goals through a variety of topics.

### Assessment

Throughout the Foundation stage, as part of the learning and teaching process, we assess each child's development throughout the year. When assessing whether an individual child is at the expected level of development practitioners should draw on their knowledge of the child and their own expert professional judgement.

During the first six weeks of the year the children take a short Baseline Assessment (RBA) as well as our own school baseline. By the end of the final year of the Foundation Stage, the children are then assessed against the Early Learning Goals. In Reception, the profile is completed throughout the year to track individual achievements and set future targets in the autumn, spring and summer terms.

Children's assessment levels are uploaded into SIMS, which is in line with the rest of the school and with the majority of Merton schools. The Foundation Stage staff input the scores for every child in all curriculum areas at the end of Autumn 1 (baseline) then at the end of the Spring term. This data is then analysed jointly by the teachers, Foundation Stage leader and assessment co-ordinator.

Final assessments are made during the summer term, and these are levels are reported to the local borough through SIMS

The Foundation Stage profile forms the basis for reports to parents, and is given out at the end of the year.

We use a secure online Learning Journal, 'Tapestry' to record photos, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum to build up a record of the child's experiences during their time within Nursery and Reception. Tapestry gives parents an opportunity to observe their child's learning and developments on a regular basis.

## 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, including the provision of nutritious food, following set procedures when children become ill or have an accident. Please see our separate policies on Health and Safety, Child Protection, Behaviour and Supporting Children with Medical Conditions.

## The Role of Parents

We believe that all parents have an important role to play in the education of their child. We recognise the role that parents have played, and their future role, in educating the children. We do this through:

- talking to parents about their child before their child starts in our school;
- the teacher visits children in their home setting prior to their starting nursery;
- inviting all parents to an induction meeting during the term before their child starts school;
- offering parents regular opportunities to talk about their child's progress in the Foundation Stage;
- encouraging parents to talk to the child's teacher if there are any concerns.
- having flexible admission arrangements that enable children and parents to become secure, and by allowing time to discuss each child's circumstances;
- arranging a range of activities throughout the year that encourage collaboration between child, school and parents;
- offering a range of activities that support the involvement of parents. There is regular communication with home through the child's contact book;
- encouraging parents to make observations at home which are included within the children's profile.

There is a formal meeting for parents in the Autumn and Spring terms at which the teacher and the parent discuss the child's progress in private with the teacher. Parents receive a report on their child's attainment and progress at the end of each school year.

## Resources

### Accommodation

The Nursery class has its own entrance with the Reception classes situated adjoining the Nursery. The classrooms are large and bright with direct access to cloakroom and toilet facilities. Each room has the appropriate size furniture, which is adaptable and mobile. We also have secure outdoor areas specifically for the Foundation stage (Nursery and Reception).

### Staff

The Nursery classes and Reception classes each have a full-time teaching assistant/nursery nurse who works alongside the teacher. Appropriate training is given to all support staff ensuring that the children benefit from having two adults in the classroom.

### Resources

A specific budget is designated for the Foundation Stage to ensure that the children have adequate and appropriate resources. Resources within the classrooms are well ordered, clearly visible and accessible to all children, helping to lead towards independence and the children taking responsibility for their own learning.

## Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the governing body, and is reviewed annually to ensure it reflects statutory requirements, current best practice and the needs of our children.