



Abberley Parochial V.C. Primary School

Inspiring Hearts & Minds

Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

January 2016

The Early Years foundation Stage (EYFS) is the curriculum that applies to children from birth to 5 years old and includes Reception age children (4 and 5 year olds).

The EYFS is based upon four principles:

- A unique child – developing resilient, capable, confident and self-assured individuals.
- Positive relationships – supporting the children in becoming strong and independent.
- Enabling environments – where opportunities and experiences respond to the individual needs of the child by developing a strong partnership between practitioners, parents/carers and the child.
- Learning and developing – An acknowledgement that children learn in different ways and at different rates.

It is our aim in the Foundation Stage to promote children's independence as young learners through the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. We encourage children to take enjoyment in their learning and to develop positive dispositions towards education. We treat children as individuals and recognise and respect their prior learning and the impact the family has on this process.

Transition:

Most children entering our Reception class will come from Abberley Preschool. The school maintains close links with the preschool through yearly meetings and events and the preschool use the school's wooded area for their Forest School activities. Staff from the school also visit the preschool in the Summer Term to meet the preschool children and to discuss transition. Towards the end of the reception year the reception class teacher and Year 1 teacher will also have a meeting to discuss transition into Year 1 and the reception children will have a morning in Year 1 to further help with transition.

Curriculum and Planning:

Activities are planned carefully using the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and both the indoor and outdoor learning environments are used to make sure that the seven areas of learning are covered:

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

- Numeracy
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The Characteristics of Effective Learning, which underpin these seven areas of learning, are also observed and monitored to make sure that children are showing engagement, motivation and critical thinking in their learning. These are reported to parents and the Year 1 teacher at the end of the year.

Assessment:

Assessment in the Early Years Foundation Stage is mostly informed by observations made of each child, these can take the form of written notes, photos, videos, conversations had with the child or work the child has completed independently. These observations are also supplemented with some teacher assessments e.g. phonic assessment, work from focused activity tasks and dialogue with parents.

After the first two weeks that children have entered Reception class in the Autumn term they are assessed in the seven areas of learning using the Foundation Stage curriculum. This is called the baseline assessment and shows the developmental stage that each child is at upon entering Reception.

At the end of each half term the observations and assessments made of each child are used to inform the practitioner of how the child is progressing in their learning and towards achieving their Early Learning Goals. In the last half term this information is then sent to the County Council and given in a report to parents.

Inclusion and SEN:

All children and their families are valued at Abberley Parochial Primary School. Children are treated as individuals and have equal access to all provisions available. All children are encouraged to achieve their personal best and planning is adapted to meet the needs of all groups and abilities including children with SEN or who are gifted and talented. With children who have Special Educational Needs concerns are always discussed with parents/carers at an early stage and appropriate steps are taken in accordance with the school's Inclusion Policy for SEN.

Health and Safety:

At Abberley Parochial Primary School, there are clear procedures for assessing risk (see whole school risk assessment policy) which includes procedures for keeping children safe during outings and for any aspects of the environment or provision that may require a further risk assessment. In addition to this, an annual risk assessment is conducted of the EYFS outdoor area (see EYFS risk assessment) and in the safeguarding and child protection policies, there is detailed information and procedures to ensure the safety of all children in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Use of hand held technology (personal phones and hand held devices)

We recognise that the area of mobile technology is rapidly advancing and it is our school's policy to review its stance on such technology on a regular basis. Currently our policy is this: Members of staff are permitted to bring their personal mobile devices into school. They are required to use their own professional judgement as to when it is appropriate to use them. Broadly speaking this is:

Personal hand held devices will be used in lesson time only in an emergency or extreme circumstances.

Members of staff are free to use these devices outside teaching time.

Members of staff **should not** use their personal device for school purposes except in an emergency. Pupils are not currently permitted to bring their personal hand held devices into school.

Personal hand held technology	Staff / adults				Pupils			
	Allowed	Allowed at certain times	Allowed for selected staff	Not allowed	Allowed	Allowed at certain times	Allowed with staff	Not allowed
Mobile phones may be brought to school	✓							✓
Use of mobile phones in lessons				✓				✓
Use of mobile phones in social time		✓						✓
Taking photos on personal phones or other camera devices				✓				✓
Use of hand held devices e.g. PDAs, gaming consoles	✓							✓

Under no circumstance should photographs of pupils be taken with staff cameras or mobile devices. Any images taken of pupils on school devices remain the property of the school and should not be forwarded to outside agencies unless the appropriate permission and safeguarding procedures have been followed.