



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

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This policy, should be used in conjunction with the school's policies for Teaching and Learning, Curriculum, Assessment, and SEND & Equalities and Safeguarding.

Aims -Intent

At Moss Lane School we offer a curriculum rich in curiosity, wonder and memorable experiences. We aim to make learning irresistible and fun. We work hard to provide a stimulating environment that provides exciting opportunities both indoors and outdoors. Our provision includes visits and visitors, promotes challenge, exploration, adventure and a real love of learning. It is our **intent** that all children develop physically, verbally, cognitively and emotionally in an environment which values all cultures, communities and people. We aim for our children to feel valued and loved in school, to be confident and independent, to believe in themselves and interact positively with others.

We understand that play is an integral part of learning and this is at the heart of our early years curriculum. We believe that the balance of adult directed and uninterrupted child-initiated play ensures the best outcomes for pupils. We pride ourselves upon building warm and positive relationships between staff and children. We believe that strong relationships with our families are vital. We recognise the crucial role that early years education has to play in providing firm foundations upon which the rest of a child's education is successfully based.

This policy aims to ensure that:

- We aspire to support and promote children's holistic growth and development, with each child realising and exceeding their full potential.
- The dignity, worth and uniqueness of each individual, both adult and child, is respected.
- We appreciate childhood as a unique and valuable stage of life and are aware that the experiences in childhood have lifelong consequences.
- The child-family bond is of primary importance, and parents/carers have primary responsibility for the child and know their child best. We value partnerships with parents/carers.
- Children are understood and supported in terms of their family, culture and wider community. Diversity is celebrated.
- We are above all committed to equipping children with an inner moral compass based on broadly Christian values, empowering them to take the lead and navigate life with honesty, compassion and confidence.
- Children are citizens who will make a valuable contribution to society and have a right to a voice in issues which affect them. It is our role, together with our families, to prepare the next generation of global leaders for an unknown future.
- The well-being of the child is paramount. Where there are competing priorities, early years professionals act as advocates for the child based on sound pedagogical principles.
- Relationships based on trust and respect are central to the child's emotional and physical health and learning.
- Children are active, capable learners, through exploration, play, talk and interacting with the environment and with others.
- Good practice sees the child as central to the direction, pace and content of their learning.
- We are committed to ensuring that children are safe and healthy, make positive contributions, enjoy and achieve.
- We are committed to reflecting on our practice, continuing to develop our knowledge and evolving understanding of our pedagogy.

Legislation

This policy is based on requirements set out in the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) that applies from September 2021.

Structure of the EYFS

At Moss Lane School, we have two Reception classes each with up to 30 children in. We have a Honey Bees class and a Bumble Bees class but we run the EYFS as a unit, which we call Bees.

Role of the EYFS Leader

It is the role of the Early Years Leader, under the line management of the Headteacher:

- To ensure implementation of all aspects of this policy.
- To organise the planning and delivery of Early Years Curriculum to ensure effective progression and development for all groups of children
- To support and monitor planning and the quality of learning and progress
- To keep abreast of developments within Early Years and carry out INSET and training as required
- To monitor, review and prepare progress reports on the impact and effectiveness of provision /resources and, if required, prepare a development plan to update provision and resources, including CPD.

Our philosophy

- Every child deserves the best possible start in life to reach their full potential. At Moss Lane we know and value the importance of strong Early Years educational provision. We know this will help to create a positive attitude and enjoyment of learning in the future.
- Our early years professionals know and understand that children are unique and develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and our provision reflects this.
- We know that children learn best through play based activities and hands on experiences.
- We use children's interests and natural curiosity as the basis for learning and development. We provide well-planned opportunities to engage children and to support learning and development in both our inside and outside learning spaces.
- We work hard to foster positive partnerships between practitioners and parents as we know this will help children to feel happy in school and will optimise their progress.

Our Objectives

- To provide a safe, secure environment with a happy, caring atmosphere for learning, reflecting individual needs and interests of children.
- To develop warm and secure relationships between children and children and adults.
- To establish good relationships with parents/carers and have effective systems of communication. These will enable sharing of information between home and school, thus supporting children to make good progress.
- To create a high quality curriculum, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, that is stimulating and dynamic, and meets the needs of each unique cohort of Reception children.

- To encourage children to develop an understanding of our whole school values.
- To place equal value on all areas of learning, equally valuing learning taking place in indoor and outdoor learning spaces.
- To support children to develop the characteristics of an effective learner, as outlined in the Characteristics of Effective Learning detailed in the Early Years Framework.
- To encourage children to make effective choices both for learning and in their social skills so they respect themselves, their skills and abilities and those of others.
- To promote respect for, and the value of, the cultural diversity and life experiences, within our school and wider community.

Curriculum

Our early years setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the latest version of the EYFS statutory framework that applies from September 2021.

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

In addition to these areas of learning, we strive for our children to develop effective characteristics of learning which will enable them to become learners for life.

Children will **play and explore** their environment showing engagement by:

- finding out and exploring
- play with what they know
- be willing to 'have a go'

Children will be **active learners**, showing motivation by:

- being involved and concentrating
- keeping on trying
- enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Children will be **creators and think critically** by:

- having their own ideas
- making links
- choosing ways to do things

These characteristics of learning are taught to the children via the use of stories and the following animals:

- Exploring Eagle
- Expert Elephant
- Go for it Gorilla
- Concentrating Crocodile
- Persevering Parrot
- Proud Peacock
- Creative Chameleon
- Slinky Linky Snake
- Determined Dolphin.

These are displayed in Reception classrooms, and referred to continuously as a golden thread which runs through the children's experiences in the Early Years.

As adults we support our children by:

- Fostering a desire to learn by nurturing active questioning and an awareness of the world around them.
- Encouraging children to express their thoughts and ideas in a variety of situations.
- Helping children to become competent speakers and listeners.
- Developing confidence by praising success and encouraging effort.
- Learning through play and experience, learning first hand.

I hear, I forget
I see, I remember
I do, I understand

Implementation

At Moss Lane School we meet the welfare requirements laid down in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and actively safeguard and promote the welfare of all of our children.

We prioritise creating a 'language rich' environment through the use of songs, nursery rhymes, stories and providing time for quality interactions between adults and between peers. Trained staff ensure that interactions are positive and progressive, allowing children to flourish and gather words at pace in order to become confident communicators.

Children are encouraged to become early readers through enjoyment of books and the systematic teaching of phonics. The children learn nursery rhymes and develop their mathematical thinking through direct teaching and exploration. We want our children to become confident mathematicians who can apply what they have learnt to real life experiences. We have built our school environment to enable our children to strengthen their core muscles through physical play; children spend time outdoors in their natural environment in all weathers, making use of bikes and trikes, large scale play equipment, sand or water play and other areas.

Our learning environment is adaptable in order to reflect children's interests and progression. The children are supported to learn to work together, manage their feelings and ask questions through skilled adult facilitated play.

The curriculum is taught through broad topics which are enriched responsively with enhancements directly from the children's fascinations and interests. Trips and visitors are planned to explore and value our community and immerse the children within real contextual learning experiences.

Broad and flexible topics are supported by high quality key texts. These are chosen carefully to encourage children's speech, language and communication development. All planning however, is flexible and responsive to children's needs so plans can be changed and adapted dependent on children's interests. We understand the importance of parental engagement and believe that our parents have a crucial role to play in their children's education, being their first and most enduring educators. We work hard to create strong partnerships between home and school.

Adults within our Early Years setting are constantly working with an observe, assess and plan approach to moving the children on in their learning. Adults are alongside the children in their play, observing, assessing and optimising those teachable moments to plan activities and move the children forward. This will sometimes happen immediately, 'in the moment,' or feed into planning for the next day. Adults also undertake observations of the children on rotation throughout each half-term, ensuring that all children are making progress. At this point in the half term, teachers also liaise with parents to discuss their children's progress. This is recorded on a 'Unique Child' proforma, which can be found in the children's learning journeys. Teachers also make a termly point in time assessment of where the children are at in terms of their learning, and this occurs at the end of each term.

Unique child

We pride ourselves in providing the best possible start to a child's education. All children within the early years learn through play: exploring their surroundings and developing their characteristics for learning, with support from attentive and experienced adults. Each child is considered 'unique' and their individual learning is catered for within Moss Lane's environment.

Positive Relationships

We believe it is vitally important to develop a partnership between all the adults involved with each child. By working together, we can provide knowledge of the 'whole child' to assist their future learning and needs. Positive relationships are key to every child's education. We pride ourselves in developing excellent working relationships with parents, understanding their role as first and most enduring educators of their children, and with the children by helping them to share, care and learn together.

Enabling Environment

We provide a stimulating 'enabling environment' both indoors and out.

- We provide a rich multi-sensory learning environment where children can experiment and explore through first hand experiences, encouraging a sense of awe and wonder, whilst being able to ask questions and solve problems.
- We provide a safe, welcoming and emotionally open environment, where children will be supported to reach their potential in all areas.
- We develop children's independence, self-belief, confidence and a growth mind set.

Teaching

Each area of learning and development is facilitated through our enabling environment, and a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. As educators we look for creative ways to capture children's natural curiosity and shape their exploration in meaningful and purposeful contexts.

Practitioners are responsive to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their learning and development through warm, positive and focussed interactions.

As children grow older, and as their development allows, the balance gradually shifts towards more adult directed activities to help children prepare for more formal learning, ready for Year 1.

Planning

The EYFS at Moss Lane School provides a happy, safe, caring, stimulating and well-organised environment in which children learn by building upon what they already know and can do.

Staff at Moss Lane look carefully at the children in their care, consider their needs, their interests and their stages of development and use all of this information to help plan a challenging and enjoyable experience across all areas of Learning and Development. In order to do this, staff working with the youngest children are expected to focus strongly on the 3 prime areas. In

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

Impact - Assessment

At Moss Lane, 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. Staff also take into account observations shared by parents and/or carers.

Our curriculum and its delivery ensure that children, from their own starting points make excellent progress. We believe our high standards are due to our carefully planned environment, enriched play-based curriculum, quality first teaching and rigorous assessment.

We teach literacy and maths to a high standard and children make excellent progress throughout the EYFS. We treat every child as an individual and are committed to the development of the 'whole child'. We want children to enter

KS1 as happy, self-assured, independent learners with a thirst to learn and the confidence to know that they can do anything they want to do and that we will support them on their journey

Within the first 6 weeks that a child **starts reception**, staff will administer the Statutory Reception Baseline Assessment.

At the **end of the EYFS**, staff complete the EYFS profile for each child. Pupils are assessed against the 17 early learning goals, indicating whether they are:

- Meeting expected levels of development (expected)
- Not yet reaching expected levels (emerging)

The profile reflects ongoing observations, and discussions with parents and/or carers. The results of the profile are shared with parents and/or carers for their child.

The profile is moderated internally (referring to the Development Matters / Birth to 5 Matters guidance) and in partnership with other local schools, to ensure consistent assessment judgements. EYFS profile data is submitted to the local authority.

Working with parents

Key to ensuring high quality early years experience is to ensure continuity between all settings and to ensure that the children's social, emotional and educational needs are addressed appropriately. At Moss Lane School transition is seen as a process, not as an event and is planned for and discussed with parents, children and practitioners of the pre-school settings that the children attend.

We also recognise that parents are the children's first and most enduring educators and that when parents and practitioners work together the results have a positive impact on children's development and learning.

We encourage parent partnership through: -

- Undertaking Home Visits in September to begin the important home – school relationship.
- Showing respect and understanding for the role of the parent in the child's education.
- Listening to accounts of their child's development and any concerns they may have.
- Making parents feel welcome by being friendly, approachable and having an open door policy.
- Inviting parents into the classroom with their child in the mornings for the first half term.
- Inviting parents into school to help with Morning Challenges.
- Maintaining an on-going dialogue.
- Being flexible in arrangements for settling children in. Meeting with parents regularly to discuss progress.
- Sending home our 'Unique Child' sheets for each child once a half term and asking parents to make contributions.
- Inviting parents in to share their child's Learning Journal and see a range of work.

- Encouraging parents to make use of the reading diary which is looked at regularly by an EYFS staff member.
- Inviting parents in the school to share their specialised skills.
- Inviting parents to accompany classes on trips.
- Use of our class eSchools pages, where photographs and videos of the children are celebrated, and information for parents is also shared.

We recognise that children learn and develop well when there is a strong partnership between staff 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.

Transition from Pre -school to full time Education

We understand and value the importance of a good start to school life and we aim to establish a smooth and successful transition into school. This is facilitated by:

- Visits to, and discussions with, pre-school settings.
- Induction visits during the summer term preceding a child's start at our school. These are a Stay and Play sessions for all children together with their parents and a Teddy Bears Picnic where they stay on their own and parents enjoy refreshments in the school hall.
- A parents' welcome talk led by the headteacher and EYFS team.
- Liaison with professional agencies already involved with children and their families
- Completion of a starting school booklet, (All About Me) for parents to share information about their child with the EYFS Team
- SENCO transition forms, from their previous settings, for children with additional needs.

Photographs/videos/phones

At the beginning of the year parents/carers are asked to give permission for their child to be photographed/videoed during their time at school. We use these images in the classroom, on displays, in the children's individual learning journals, and on the school website. We will only use school devices for this purpose. Except in a major emergency, personal mobile phones/cameras may not be used in school when children are present.

Home and School communication

We value the involvement of parents in school and have a variety of communication systems. There are regular school newsletters, the school's website and 'classroom door' messages. EYFS staff will make an appointment with parents to discuss any concerns. We believe it is better to talk sooner than later.

Parental involvement with school begins before children start Reception through the transition activities. We hold 10minute parent consultation meetings in the Autumn and Spring Terms. Parents are invited to discuss and share information about their child's progress with teachers. A report is sent out towards the end of the Summer Term and parents may make an appointment to discuss this report if they wish. Parents are invited to various events and functions throughout the year. These are on the school diary on the website and communicated in newsletters.

Equalities and disabilities

All pupils in this school are entitled to access a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum regardless of ability, gender, race and social circumstances. The particular needs of more able children, those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), vulnerable children and children learning English as an additional language (EAL) are all considered and staff will adapt provision to suit all levels of ability and need We will

make sure that we have the resources and adapted provision so that all children can make good progress whatever their starting points. The school has a full Equality and Diversity and Equal Opportunities policy.

Inclusion

All children will receive quality first teaching on a daily basis and activities will be differentiated accordingly. In addition to this where children have been identified as having a specific need intervention programmes will be implemented.

Teachers and Teaching Assistants plan programmes together and where needed with liaison with the SENDco (Special Needs Co-ordinator. Please refer to our 'Special Needs Policy' for greater detail). The needs of children with English as an additional language will be met through planning and support alongside our 'English as an Additional Language' (EAL) lead practitioner

Care is taken to assess the needs of each child as they start school. Should a teacher assesses that a child may have a special need the parent will be informed at the earliest opportunity. Group and individual help is provided within the school wherever possible. We have links with various agencies and when necessary their involvement may be required to support certain children. Parents will always be informed if an outside agency is assisting us to support their child. The school has a full Special Educational Needs & Disability (S.E.N.D) policy.

Safeguarding

Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them. We follow the safeguarding and welfare requirements detailed in the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' statutory guidance and adhere to the school's safeguarding policy. The school takes its child safety and protection responsibilities very seriously. EYFS staff will regularly check EYFS resources, systems and classrooms to keep children as safe as possible in EYFS. The school has processes and procedures to ensure children are as safe as possible when they are at school. It is important to us that all children in the school are 'safe'.

We aim to educate children on boundaries, rules and limits and to help them understand why they exist. We provide children with 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 well-being of all children. We know that children learn best when they are healthy and safe, when their individual needs are met and when they have the chance to build positive relationships with the adults around them and their peers. The rest of our safeguarding procedures are outlined in our safeguarding policy

If a member of staff has any concerns about the safety or well-being of a child they have a legal responsibility to report, and record, their concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. (Victoria Abbott) If it is then deemed necessary, the concern will be reported to the relevant external agency. The safety of the child is always of paramount importance. The full Safeguarding Policy is available in school for parents to read if they wish.

Health and Welfare procedures

We are a healthy school and participate in the free fruit and milk for under-fives scheme. A rolling snack operates during free-flow time where children self select a snack when they feel hungry. For our Reception children we provide the universal infant free school meal and the menu is regularly monitored by our caterers Innovate. We cater for

those children who have special dietary requirements and have robust systems in place ensuring that all children receive the correct meal. Fresh water is readily available for all children and we encourage children to bring in water bottles with water only. Children are taught the importance of keeping clean and washing their hands correctly.

