



Sutton in Craven C of E (VC) Primary School

Early Years Policy

Date Adopted: January 2014

Next Review: January 2016

Reviewed every 2 years by The Improvement Committee

- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of the reception year.
- Early childhood is the foundation on which children build the rest of their lives. We want children to be engaged in the learning process and for their learning to be relevant, purposeful and fun. We believe children learn best by doing. Play helps children to explore, investigate and, make sense of the world around them. Play helps children to be challenged in their thinking and helps them to practice and rehearse skills.

The EYFS is based around four key principles:

- **A Unique Child**
- **Positive Relationships**
- **Enabling Environments**
- **Learning and Development**

A Unique Child – every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive Relationships – children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/ or a key person.

Enabling Environments – the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

Learning and Development – children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and inter-connected.

The EYFS is organised into Prime and Specific Areas of Learning:

Prime Areas of Learning

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

Specific Areas of Development

- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the World
- Expressive arts and design

We use different starting points for planning learning experiences including topic work, the environment and children's interests. Children have the opportunity to experience continuous provision, both indoors and outdoors, this allows them to return to work and add to their ideas. Teachers planning reflect the areas of learning and the continuous provision.

Assessment

- Children entering school are observed during their first weeks, to provide baseline information.
- Monitoring of each child takes place through regular observations, discussions, photographs and record keeping.
- Each child's EYFS profile is linked to the curriculum, identifying strengths and areas for development. At the end of the reception year EYFS profile results are sent to the LA.
- An end of year report summarising the achievements from the EYFS is sent to parents.

Assessment through observation

- Children give indications of their learning all of the time through what they say, what they do, how they approach activities etc., and it is primarily by observing children that judgements are made to inform records and planning. Specific time for planned observations is allocated, this may take the form of a general classroom observation, e.g. of an activity, an observation on a particular child or on one of the targets from the EYFS profile. These observations are recorded in a variety of ways e.g. photographs, post it's, annotations on work, longer observation sheets and sharing books.

Transition

- Changing from a pre-school setting or moving year groups can be daunting for both children and parents. We aim to make this transition as easy and comfortable as possible for all involved. Children have visits to so they become familiar and comfortable with their new environment. We have regular dialogue with parents and professionals within other settings to ensure we gain a full overview of each child and their needs.

Partnership with parents

We greatly value the contribution and knowledge which parents and carers bring. We try to include parents as much as possible, both formally and informally by –

- Keeping parents informed about what is happening in class and school
- Inviting parents to spend time in class
- Writing notes in children's planners
- Being available in the playground
- Offering parent consultation twice a year
- Valuing what children have been doing out of school through show and tell or adding information to children's profiles
- I can do books