



Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

Reviewed	January 2022
Next review date	January 2023

Harrington Hill Primary School

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of the Reception year. At Harrington Hill Primary School, children **usually** join the Reception class in the year that they turn five. In partnership with parents and carers, we enable the children to begin the process of becoming active learners for life. **We endeavour to ensure that children have the necessary support and high quality early learning that provides the foundations children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow. (Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2021).**

The EYFS is based upon four principles **(Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2021)** .:

- **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.

A Unique Child

We recognise that every child is a competent learner who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. We recognise that children develop in individual ways, at varying rates. Children's attitudes and dispositions to learning are influenced by feedback from others. We use praise and encouragement, as well as celebrations and rewards, to encourage children to develop a positive attitude to learning.

Positive Relationships

At Harrington Hill Primary School, we recognise that children learn to be independent through secure relationships. We aim to develop caring, respectful, professional relationships with the children and their families.

We recognise that parents are children's first and most enduring educators and we value the contribution they make. We see parents as partners, recognising the role that they have played, and their future role, in educating the children. We do this through:

- talking to parents about their child, before they start school during a home visit.
- the children having the opportunity to spend time with their teacher before starting school during transition sessions.
- inviting all parents to an induction meeting during the half term before their child starts school.
- holding parent workshops throughout the year on how to help **their child's development**
- encouraging parents to talk to the child's teacher if there are any concerns. There is a formal meeting for parents twice a year at which the teacher and the parent discuss

the child's progress. Parents receive a report on their child's attainment and progress at the end of each school year.

Enabling Environments

We aim to create an attractive and stimulating learning environment where children feel confident and secure and challenged. The children have daily access to an indoor and outdoor environment that is set up in discrete areas of learning with planned continuous provision.

Effective learning builds and extends upon prior learning and following children's interest. Effective planning is informed by observations of the children to ensure we follow their current interests and experiences.

Children have opportunities to access whole class activities, adult-led small group learning, independent directed activities, and self-selected play and learning. Provision is carefully planned to stimulate and engage children's interests, and offer children opportunities for both success and challenge.

Learning and Development

Teachers, **Teaching Assistants** and Early Years Educators (Nursery Officers) provide the curriculum across the early years. We have **one** full time Reception class and **one full time Nursery class**.

There are seven areas of learning and development of which three are "prime areas," and four "specific areas."

The prime areas are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the world and
- Expressive arts and design

Through careful assessments and observations, including information provided by parents and other settings, children's development levels are assessed. The balance will shift towards a more equal focus on all areas of learning as children grow in confidence and ability within the three prime areas. However, if a child's progress in any prime area gives cause for concern, staff will discuss this with the child's parents and/or carers and agree how to support the child. This may also include a discussion with the Inclusion Leader in order to access Special Educational Needs support.

At Harrington Hill Primary School, each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Play is used as an essential part of children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults. There is an on-going judgement to be made by practitioners about the balance between activities led by children, and activities led or guided by adults. Practitioners must 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, it is expected that the balance will gradually shift towards more activities led by adults, to help children prepare for more formal learning, ready for Year 1. (Statutory Framework for EYFS 2021)

Planning and guided children's activities will reflect on the different ways that children learn and reflect these in their practice. At Harrington Hill Primary School, we support children in using the three Characteristics of Effective Learning. These 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.
- (Taken from statutory framework for the EYFS 2021)

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

All children and their families are valued at Harrington Hill Primary School. Children are treated as individuals and have equal access to all provision available. All children are encouraged to achieve their personal best and planning is adapted to meet the needs of all. Assessments take into account contributions from a range of perspectives to ensure that any child with potential Special Educational Needs (SEN) is identified at the earliest possible opportunity. Early identification of SEN is crucial to enable staff to support the development of each child. Concerns are always discussed with parents/carers at an early stage and the school's Inclusion Leader (SENCo) is called upon for further information and advice. Appropriate steps are taken in accordance with the school's policy for SEND.

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;

- monitoring children's progress and taking action to provide support as necessary.

Welfare

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.

"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."

At Harrington Hill School, we understand that we are legally required to comply with certain welfare requirements as stated in the Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage 2017. We understand that we are required to:

- promote the welfare and safeguarding of children.
- promote good health, preventing the spread of infection and taking appropriate action when children are ill.
- manage behaviour effectively in a manner appropriate for the children's stage of development and individual needs.
- ensure all adults who look after the children or who have unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.
- ensure that the premises, furniture and equipment is safe and suitable for purpose.
- ensure that every child receives enjoyable and challenging learning and development experiences tailored to meet their needs.
- maintain records, policies and procedures required for safe efficient management of the setting and to meet the needs of the children.

Equal Opportunities

All members of the school are treated as individuals. We are inclusive and aim to meet the needs of all, taking account of gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, sexual orientation, age, special educational needs, disability, and social circumstances. All staff are aware of the need for the curriculum to reflect cultural diversity and the need to prepare pupils for life in a diverse and multi-faith society.

Health and Safety

At Harrington Hill, there are clear procedures for assessing risk 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, please see the safeguarding and child protection policy where there is detailed information and procedures to ensure the safety of the children.

In line with the EYFS Statutory Framework 2021, at Harrington Hill we ensure;

- A whole school medical needs policy outlines the systems in place to ensure that medicines (and the systems for obtaining information about a child's needs for medication) are kept up to date. Training is provided for staff where the administration of medicine requires medical or technical knowledge. Medicines (both prescription and non-prescription) are only administered to a child where written permission for that particular medicine has been obtained from the child's parent and/or carer. At Harrington Hill Primary School, a written record is kept each time a medicine is administered to a child and the child's parents and/or carers are informed on the same day.
- Fresh drinking water is available at all times.
- Children's dietary needs are recorded and acted upon when required.
- Each classroom has a snack area that provides fresh fruit and bagels everyday.
- A first aid box is accessible at all times and a record of accidents and injuries is kept. As of July 2019 < think this may need updating but not sure about dates? members of staff have up to date paediatric first aid training.
- The Pastoral Leader is the named behaviour manager for the whole school (refer to SEND policy, behaviour policy and positive handling policy).
- A health and safety policy and procedures which cover identifying, reporting and dealing with accidents, hazards and faulty equipment.
- A fire and emergency evacuation procedure and policy.
- A policy stating mobile phones must not be used in school at any time or during an outing. iPads are to be used and stored securely whilst children are in the setting.

Transition

During the summer term prior to a child's entry into the Reception year, the following procedures have been put into place to ensure successful transitions:

- Parents are invited to a meeting to ensure they know about school procedures and allocation of classes and any concerns they may want to express.
- The children from our nursery and new starters are invited to visit the reception classes during a transition session.
- Members of staff from Harrington Hill may make visits to outside settings. The number of visits will depend on the child's needs and how much information gathering is required in order to support the child's transition.
- Children requiring extra support from outside settings will have additional visits to the school. Often these children will have been identified as requiring additional support.

From Reception to Year 1

During the final term in Reception, the EYFS Profile is completed for each child. The Profile provides parents and carers, staff and teachers with a well-rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities, their progress against expected levels, and their readiness for Year 1. The Profile is informed by on-going observation and professional judgements by the class teacher and TAs, discussions with parents and carers, and any other adults whom the teacher, parent or carer judges can offer a useful contribution.

Each child's level of development is assessed against the early learning goals. The profile indicates whether children are meeting expected levels of development ('expecting'), or not yet reaching expected levels ('emerging'). Year 1 teachers are given a copy of the Profile report together with a short commentary on each child's skills and abilities in relation to the

three key Characteristics of Effective Learning. This informs the dialogue between Reception and Year 1 teachers about each child's stage of development and learning needs and assists with the planning of activities in Year 1. During the final term of Reception, Reception and Year 1 teachers work together to plan transition activities, supporting children to feel ready for their transition to Year 1.