

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) policy

Heavers Farm Primary School



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1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure:

- That children access a broad and balanced curriculum that gives them the broad range of knowledge and skills needed for good progress through school and life
- Quality and consistency in teaching and learning so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind
- A close working partnership between staff and parents and/or carers
- Every child is included and supported through equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice

2. Legislation

This policy is based on requirements set out in the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\)](#) for 2023.

3. Structure of the EYFS

We have two Reception classes (with 30 places in each) and a Nursery class which offers either full time (8.40a.m. – 3.10p.m.) or part-time places (which are mornings only, 8.40a.m. – 11.45a.m.).

Our Nursery class offers both 15 and 30 hour funded places and an option to pay if a family are not eligible for a fully funded place. Our charges are £75 per week, with £12.50 to cover lunches if required. We do not offer places on a daily basis.

4. Curriculum

Our early years setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the latest EYFS statutory framework.

The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. 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
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The prime areas are strengthened and applied through 4 specific areas:

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

4.1 Planning

Our staff plan activities and experiences for children that enable children to develop and learn effectively. In order to do this, staff working with the youngest children are expected to focus strongly on the 3 prime areas.

When children join Reception, we continue to develop learning in the 3 prime areas, but the focus in planning is much more heavily focused on the 4 specific areas.

Staff also take into account the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child in their care, and use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience. 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.

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

4.2 Teaching

Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play, and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Staff 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, the balance gradually shifts towards more adult-led activities to help children prepare for more formal learning, ready for year 1.

5. Assessment

At Heavers Farm Primary School, ongoing assessment is an integral part of 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.

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

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
- 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 [guidance](#)) and in partnership with other local schools, to ensure consistent assessment judgements. EYFS profile data is submitted to the local authority upon request.

6. Working with parents and carers

We recognise that children learn and develop well when there's 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 EYFS profile helps to provide parents and/or carers with a well-rounded picture of their child's knowledge, understanding and abilities. We keep 'learning journey' profiles in class for each pupil, which provides a record of their development in the EYFS. These are shared regularly with parents at half-termly open days when parents

come in to the classes to look at the children's learning. Parents are encouraged to follow the children's progress via weekly blog posts.

Each child is assigned a key person who helps to ensure that their learning and care is tailored to meet their needs. The key person supports parents and/or carers in guiding their child's development at home. The key person also helps families to engage with more specialist support, if appropriate.

7. Safeguarding and welfare procedures

We recognise that 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 safeguarding and welfare requirements to provide a welcoming, safe and stimulating environment where children are able to enjoy learning and grow in confidence.

We make sure that the appropriate statutory staff:child ratios are maintained in our setting to meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety:

- For children aged 3 and over:

In our nursery class:

- We have at least 1 member of staff for every 13 children

In our Reception classes:

- We comply with infant class size legislation and have at least 1 teacher per 30 pupils

We have at least 1 person with a current paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate on the premises and available at all times when children are present, including on outings. This PFA certificate is renewed every 3 years as required.

We promote good oral health, as well as good health in general, in the early years by talking to children about:

- The effects of eating too many sweet things
- The importance of brushing your teeth
- The importance of maintaining a balanced diet
- The importance of regular exercise

The rest of our safeguarding and welfare procedures are outlined in our school's child protection and safeguarding policy.

8. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Early Years leaders every year.

At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

Appendix 1. List of statutory policies and procedures for the EYFS

Statutory policy or procedure for the EYFS	Where can it be found?
Safeguarding policy and procedures	See Safeguarding Policy 2022-23 (available at https://heaversfarm.com/about-us-2/school-policies/)
Procedure for responding to illness	See Medical Needs Policy 2019 (available at https://heaversfarm.com/about-us-2/school-policies/)
Administering medicines policy	See Medical Needs Policy 2019 (available at https://heaversfarm.com/about-us-2/school-policies/)
Emergency evacuation procedure	See Accessibility Plan 2020-23 (available at https://heaversfarm.com/about-us-2/school-policies/)
Procedure for checking the identity of visitors	See Safeguarding Policy 2022-23 (available at https://heaversfarm.com/about-us-2/school-policies/)
Procedures for a parent failing to collect a child and for missing children	See Safeguarding Policy 2022-23 (available at https://heaversfarm.com/about-us-2/school-policies/)
Procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints	See Complaints Procedure 2023 (available at https://heaversfarm.com/about-us-2/school-policies/)