



## Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

### Mission Statement

***Our School - A family and a home for everyone***

**Working and Learning together to be the best that we can be**

### Our Vision

We are not just a school, we are home!

We lay the foundations for each individual's future and for dreams to be fulfilled - whatever they may be.

No two bricks are the same but are accepted for their uniqueness and are placed in their own special way to meet their needs.

The cement bonds us together as a family to keep us strong, stable and safe.

We are all safe and happy under one roof, we are protected from the elements and prepared to weather every storm.

The key to success unlocks the door to future achievements unseen before.

The windows show us the reflections of our future self as ready, respectful and responsible adults.

Collaboratively, together our home is decorated with challenge and the rooms are furnished with fun.

All around, a variety of trees grow naturally from the seed of success, with nurture and care anything is possible.

So we are not just a school, we are a home that provides a champion for all as well as timeless experiences and skills for a brighter future.

And that is why we are called Clockhouse.

Ring the bell, we're always here!

### School Aims

- To enable all children, members of the school community and the wider community to contribute to school life.
- To promote high standards and provide opportunities for all to achieve their full potential.
- To encourage a sense of self-worth and confidence empowering children to fulfil a contributing role in society.
- To create a diverse and challenging learning environment in which children are cared for and feel safe.
- To provide leadership and management which focuses on raising standards and promoting the personal development and well-being of all members of the school community.

### Introduction

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Policy must be read in conjunction with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage which the school adheres to as well as whole school policies.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of the Reception year. At Clockhouse the vast majority of children join us at the beginning of their Nursery year and attend either full time or part time, some children join us at the start of the Reception year. Where spaces in the Nursery are available these may be offered to younger children who meet a set criteria. We operate a staggered approach to our intake to ensure the children have time to settle into their surroundings and practitioners get to know them.

At Clockhouse Primary School we have:

- Two Nursery sessions per day with one class teacher, a Nursery manager and three Nursery Nurses
- Some Nursery children who attend all day nursery.
- Three Reception classes each with one class teacher and one Learning Assistant.
- All areas have continual access to the outdoor learning environment.
- One of the teachers is the EYFS Leader.

The EYFS is based upon four principles:

- A Unique Child

- Positive Relationships
- Enabling Environments
- Learning and Development

### **A Unique Child**

At Clockhouse Primary School 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 and 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 of work and achievements, and rewards, to encourage children to develop a positive attitude to learning.

### **Inclusion**

We value the diversity of individuals within the school and do not discriminate against children because of 'differences'. All children at Clockhouse Primary School are treated fairly and all children and their families are valued.

In our school we believe that all our children matter. We give our children every opportunity to achieve their best. We do this by taking account of our children's range of life experiences when planning for their learning.

In the EYFS we set realistic and challenging expectations that meet the needs of the children. In planning we ensure that we meet the needs of all the learners using practitioner's knowledge and both formative and summative assessment procedures.

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 and interests.
- 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.

It is important to us that all children in the school are and feel '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 are also taught how to recognise and avoid hazards.

We aim to protect the physical and psychological wellbeing of all children. (See Whole School Child Protection Policy and whistle Blowing Policy)

### **Welfare**

At Clockhouse Primary School we comply with the welfare requirements as stated in the Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage 2017. We understand that we are required to:

- Promote the welfare 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.

We endeavour to meet all these requirements (see whole school policies for further information).

### **Positive Relationships**

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

### **Parents as Partners**

We recognise that parents are the children's first and most enduring educators and we value the contribution they make.

We recognise the role that parents have played and their future role, in educating the children. We do this through:

- Talking to parents about their child before their child starts in our school, through inviting the parents into school prior to the children starting as well as carrying out home visits for all children (where taken up by the parents / carers);
- Parents signing the home school agreement prior to their children starting school;
- Offering parents regular opportunities to talk about their child's progress;
- Allowing the parents free access to the children's 'Learning Books' folders and encourage them to input and comment in them. They are also formally invited into school to do so at least once a term;
- Encouraging parents to talk to the EYFS staff and school staff generally if there are any concerns. We discuss our open door policy with the parents during home visits and regularly remind parents when adults are available to talk to;
- Parents receiving a report on their child's progress during the summer term;
- Inviting the parents to attend a parents' evening during the Autumn and Spring term;
- Sending out questionnaires encouraging the parents to feedback on experiences and how we as a school can support them further, improving home school relationships;
- Offering workshops to the parents throughout the year to demonstrate how they can support their child's learning at home;
- Using our star certificates in which parents can share achievements in the home and any other valuable experiences their child has taken part in.
- Arranging a range of activities throughout the year that encourage collaboration between child, school and parents: Christmas performance, Sports Day etc.;
- Communicating with parents through the children's learning diary and on through the school website, blog and newsletters;
- Updating class stories on the dojo each week to share photographs of learning from each week with the parents.
- Sending a weekly message on dojo each Friday to inform parents of any information they may need to know.
- We also provide parents with a half termly curriculum overview informing them of the learning that will take place for that half term to maximise their support at home.

All staff involved with the EYFS aim to develop good relationships with all children, interacting positively with them and taking time to listen to them. At our school both the teachers and Support Staff act as a key person to an assigned group of children.

### **Enabling Environments**

At Clockhouse Primary School we recognise that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending the children's development. This begins by observing the children and assessing their interests, development and learning, before planning challenging but achievable activities and experiences to extend the children's learning.

### **Observation, Assessment and Planning**

The Planning within the EYFS includes 'Long Term Plan' and 'Medium Term Plans,' which are based around half termly themes. These plans are used by the EYFS teacher as a guide for weekly planning; however the

teacher may alter the 'Medium Term Plans' in response to the needs (achievements and interests) of the children.

We make regular assessments of children's learning. This information is used to ensure that future planning reflects identified needs. Assessment in the EYFS takes the form of observation, and this involves all adults within the Early Years setting and regular training is provided for key members of the Early Years team to ensure judgements and observations are accurate and informative. These observations are recorded using 'Evidence me' along with the children's 'Learning Books'. The books also contain information provided by parents and other settings.

At Clockhouse Primary School, we use a tracking system to record the children's developmental ages. We also track the lowest percentage of children in terms of attainment, which changes on a cyclical process. Within the final term of the both Nursery and Reception, we provide a written summary to parents, reporting their progress against the prime areas and the specific areas of learning and we also report on their child's characteristics of effective learning.

We provide an opportunity for the parents to discuss this with the EYFS teacher during an open session at the end of the year or alternatively the parents can arrange a meeting.

### **The Learning Environment**

The EYFS classroom is organised to allow children to explore and learn securely and safely. There are areas where the children can be active, explore and investigate, be creative and imaginative or be quiet and rest. The classroom is set up in learning areas, where children are able to find and locate equipment and resources independently. The EYFS class has its own enclosed outdoor area. This has a positive effect on the children's development. Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors. It offers the children space to explore, use their senses and be physically active and exuberant. We plan activities and resources for the children to access outdoors that help the children to develop in all seven areas of learning.

### **Learning and Development**

At Clockhouse Primary School we recognise that children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates. We value all areas of learning and development equally and understand that they are inter connected.

### **Teaching and Learning Style**

Our policy on learning and teaching in the EYFS defines the features of effective learning and teaching in our school. Features that relate to the EYFS are:

- The partnership between staff and parents, so that our children feel secure at school and develop a sense of well-being and achievement.
- The understanding that staff have of how children develop and learn, and how this affects their teaching.
- Ensuring all adults within the setting are suitably qualified.
- The range of approaches used that provide first-hand experiences, give clear explanations, make appropriate interventions and extend and develop play and talk or other means of communication.
- The carefully planned curriculum that helps children work towards their targets and goals throughout EYFS.
- The provision for children to take part in activities that build on and extend their interests and develop their intellectual, physical, social and emotional abilities.
- The encouragement for children to communicate and talk about their learning, and to develop independence and self-management.
- The support for learning with appropriate and accessible indoor and outdoor space, facilities and equipment;
- The identification of the progress and future learning needs of children through observations, which are shared with parents.
- The good relationships between our school and the settings that our children experience prior to joining our school.

## **Play**

Through play our children explore and develop learning experiences, which help them make sense of the world. They practise and build up ideas, and learn how to control themselves and understand the need for rules. They have the opportunity to think creatively alongside other children as well as on their own. They communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems. They express fears or re-live anxious experiences in controlled and safe situations.

## **Active Learning**

Active learning occurs when children are motivated and interested. Children need to have some independence and control over their learning. As children develop their confidence they learn to make decisions. It provides children with a sense of satisfaction as they take ownership of their learning.

## **Creativity and Critical Thinking**

Children are given opportunity to be creative through all areas of learning. Adults support children's thinking and help them to make connections by showing genuine interest, offering encouragement, clarifying ideas and asking open questions. Children can access resources freely and are allowed to move them around the environment to extend their learning.

## **Areas of Learning**

The EYFS is made up of seven areas of learning:

The Prime Areas:

- Communication and Language (CL) - Listening and Attention and Speaking;
- Physical Development (PD) – Gross motor skills and fine motor skills
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED) – Managing self, building relationships and self-regulation.

The Specific areas:

- Literacy – Word reading, comprehension, Writing;
- Mathematics – Numbers and number pattern;
- Understanding the World – People, Cultures and Communities, The Natural World, Past and Present;
- Expressive Arts and Design – Creating with materials, Being Imaginative and Expressive.

None of these areas can be delivered in isolation from the others. They are equally important and depend on each other. All areas are delivered through a balance of adult led and child-initiated activities. The practitioners within the setting are aware and fully trained on how to deliver the Early Years curriculum thinking of the seven areas of learning and also the characteristics of effective learning.

## **Review**

We are aware of the need to review the school Early Years Foundation Stage Policy regularly so that we can take account of changes in the Statutory Framework, new initiatives, changes in the curriculum, developments in technology or changes to the physical environment of the school.

During the review consideration will be given to:

- The value of the policy to all staff and the Governing Body.
- The effectiveness of the policy in working and achieving the school aims pupil performance and assessment results.

*This policy has been reviewed and no individual or group are disadvantaged by the policy or process therein.*

**Date Reviewed:**                      **Autumn Term 2024**

**Review Date:**                        **Autumn Term 2026**

Signed: ..... Chair of Governors    Date: .....

Signed: ..... Headteacher            Date: .....