



EYFS Information Sheet

Implementation

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage

We adhere to the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021 document (Department for Education, 2021) and the guiding principles that shape practice within Early Years settings:

The EYFS is based upon four principles:

- Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured;
- Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**;
- Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments**, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents/ carers;
- **Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.**

As part of our practice at Huxley CE Primary School we:

- Provide a safe, challenging, stimulating, caring and sharing environment which is sensitive to the needs of the child, including children with additional needs;
- Provide a broad, balanced, relevant and coherently sequenced curriculum, using play as the vehicle for learning;
- Promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice;
- Provide early intervention for those children who require additional support;
- Enable choice and decision-making, fostering independence and self confidence;
- Use and value what each child can do, assessing their individual needs and helping each child to progress;
- Plan challenging learning experiences, based on the individual child, informed by observation and assessment and by the children's own ideas and interests;
- Work in partnership with parents and carer and value their contributions; This is especially important when the child's education is provided both at home and within school through our flexi provision
- Ensure that all children, irrespective of ethnicity, culture, religion, home, language, family background, learning difficulties, disabilities, gender or ability, have the opportunity to experience a challenging and enjoyable programme of learning and development.

The Curriculum

We plan an exciting and challenging curriculum based on our observation of children's needs, interests and stages of child development across the seven areas of learning and development to enable the children to achieve the Early Learning Goals. All seven areas are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These three areas are the **Prime Areas** of Learning:

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

We also support the children in four **Specific Areas** of Learning, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Play

Learning through play underpins our approach to teaching and learning in the Foundation Stage. We embrace the fact that young children learn best from activities and experiences that interest and inspire them to learn. In doing so, we can provide children with stimulating, active play experiences in which they can explore and develop their learning and to help them make sense of the world. Children have opportunities through their play to think creatively and critically alongside other children as well as on their own. They are able to practise skills, build upon and revisit prior learning and experiences at their own level and pace. Play gives our children the opportunity to pursue their own interests, inspire those around them and consolidate their understanding and skills. The children learn to adapt, negotiate, communicate, discuss, investigate and ask questions. Our adults take an active role in child initiated play through observing, modelling, facilitating, teaching and extending play, skills and language.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

In planning, guiding and facilitating the children's learning activities, we continually reflect on the different ways children learn. The characteristics of effective teaching and learning highlight the importance of a child's attitude to learning and their ability to play, explore and think critically about the world around them.

The characteristics 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

Creating and Thinking Critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

Children are provided with a range of rich, meaningful first-hand experiences in which they can explore, think creatively and be active. We aim to develop and foster positive attitudes towards learning, confidence, communication and physical development.

Planning

Good planning is the key to making children's learning effective, exciting, varied and progressive. Effective learning builds on and extends what children know and can do. It draws upon secure knowledge of child development and is always informed by observations we have made of the children, in order to understand and consider their current interests, development and learning. All practitioners who work in reception are involved in this process.

We create loose long and medium term plans based on a series of topics, each of which offers experiences in all seven areas of learning. We use the same schemes of work that the older children use to enable them to 'step' into our Huxley curriculum in a way that supports their transition into Year 1. Throughout each topic the children are encouraged to share their ideas for learning experiences with us. These ideas are then used to inform our short term weekly planning, alongside our observations which identify areas to focus on. Although the schemes of work are there to provide a structure to some elements, we always remain flexible to allow for unplanned circumstances and children's responses. Children will engage in whole group and small group activities alongside their independent learning.

The curriculum is delivered using a play-based approach as outlined by the EYFS framework: *'Each area of learning and development must be implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities'*.

We plan a balance between children having time and space to engage in their own child-initiated activities and those which are planned by adults. During children's play, the adults in class interact when appropriate to facilitate learning and skill development, or to stretch and challenge them further. In planning and guiding children's activities, we reflect as practitioners on the different ways that children learn and build these into our practice. We create a stimulating learning environment to encourage children to free-flow between inside and outdoors.

Impact

Observations & Assessment

All practitioners who interact with the child contribute to the assessment process. Assessments inform everyday planning and are based on on-going observational assessment of each child's achievements, interests and learning styles. On-going assessments may take the form of anecdotal observations, focused observations, examples of work, photographs, and information from parents. We share observations on Showbie and encourage yourselves to do so too. You will be given your Showbie Log In in September when your child enrolls.

Baseline Assessment

On entry to the Foundation Stage all children are assessed. Within the first 6 weeks of term, we carry out the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment. Assessments are also collected through observations and directed tasks which are used to plan next steps for individual and groups of children. Further termly assessments are used to track both individual progress, class progress and the progress of vulnerable groups.

EYFS Profile

At the end of the year, the EYFS profile provides a summary of every child's development and learning achievements including whether they have reached a 'Good Level of Development' (GLD). Children are assessed against the Early Learning Goals (ELG) by the class teacher - who uses the exemplification documents, and their knowledge of the children to make a 'best fit' judgement. This profile data is the statutory data that is sent to the Local Authority and used to help school benchmark and identify improvements.