

Maiden Erlegh Trust

## **EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS) POLICY**



**MAIDEN ERLEGH**  
TRUST

Including local arrangements in annexes for:

### **BIRCH HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY**

<b>Initial approval:</b>	December 2019
<b>Review frequency:</b>	Annually
<b>Date(s) reviewed:</b>	December 2020, 2021, 2022. July 2023

## Contents

1. Aims .....	3
2. Legislation .....	3
3. Structure of the EYFS .....	3
4. Curriculum .....	3
5. Assessment .....	5
6. Working with parents .....	5
7. Safeguarding and welfare procedures .....	6
8. Monitoring arrangement .....	6

## 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
- Close partnership working between practitioners and with 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 2021 Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

This document also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

## 3. Structure of the EYFS

Birch Hill Primary School and Nursery provides Nursery (Foundation Stage 1) and Reception (Foundation Stage 2) provision. It is led by the school's EYFS/KS1 Leader.

Birch Hill Primary School offers Nursery Provision for children from the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Core Nursery provision is 15 hours per week, currently in a morning session from 09.00am to 12.00 noon. 30 hours provision is available if there is sufficient capacity.

Foundation Stage 2 (FS2) provision comprises of 2 reception class, which operates fluidly across the EYFS unit to maximise learning opportunities. There is one September entry point for all pupils who turn 5 in that academic year. Reception offers full-time education to all pupils from 8.50am - 3.15pm each day.

## 4. Curriculum

Our early years setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the 2021 statutory framework of the EYFS and the non-statutory Development Matters.

The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. Three areas are, however, known as the prime areas and 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

The prime areas are strengthened and applied through 4 specific areas:

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

The EYFS department has a relentless focus on the development of early reading and oracy which is implemented from day one. We follow the Oxford Reading Tree, Floppy Phonics programmes for development of early literacy skills.

More details can be found on the school website: Termly curriculum plans and yearly overviews can be found [here](#).

#### **4.1 Planning**

Staff plan activities and experiences for children that enable children to develop and learn effectively. In order to do this, practitioners working with the youngest children are expected to focus strongly on the 3 prime areas. We also strongly believe that to succeed our pupils need to be able to read confidently and we start our successful reading & writing programme on entry to Reception. Nursery pupils undertake activities to support this learning, during the Summer Term.

Staff also consider 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, practitioners 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. Practitioners respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction.

At Birch Hill Primary School we provide structured teacher-led activities from the beginning. A typical day would look like this:

- Self-registration on entry
- 'Finger Gym' independent self-selected fine motor skills activities – leading onto more writing focussed activities throughout the year.
- Teacher-led Phonics sessions following the Oxford Reading Tree Floppy Phonics scheme,.
- Snack and Chat in small key groups to develop speaking and listening skills.
- Child-initiated 'Explore Time' linked to our continuous provision and curriculum themes both inside and outside.

- Teacher-led mathematical input – we follow the White Rose Hub and use Numicon as a visual.
- Child-initiated 'Explore Time' linked to mathematical concepts across the curriculum both inside and outside.
- **Oracy sessions and use of talk partners to build communication and language**
- Storytime and Talk for Writing
- Lunchtime – eating skills supported by teaching team.
- Child-initiated 'Explore Time'
- Story and singing time in smaller key groups
- Teacher-led handwriting development activities
- Curriculum themed input followed by Child-initiated 'Explore Time' linked to continuous provision across the curriculum both inside and outside. Individual 1:1 focus activity is provided throughout the sessions.
- Circle time with PSHE focus.
- Storytime to build up a strong knowledge of a range of well-known high-quality stories.

As children grow older, and as their development allows, we gradually shift our focus towards preparing our pupils to be fully ready for the Year 1 curriculum.

## 5. Assessment

At Birch Hill Primary School, ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning and development processes. Staff work with pupils to identify their level of achievement, interests and learning habits. These observations are used to shape future planning. Practitioners also consider observations shared by parents and/or carers.

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 then shared with parents and/or carers.

## 6. Working with parents

We recognise that children learn and develop well when there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.

Parents and/or carers are kept up to date with their child's progress and development through formal parent consultation meetings twice per year alongside informal daily updates from EYFS staff at arrival and collection. Formal written reports at the end of the EYFS are provided.

Regular updates are sent home via Tapestry which enable parents to monitor their child's progress.

Half termly learning newsletters highlighting learning undertaken during the week and outlining the planned learning for the following week, including sections on 'how you can help your child' provide clear support to allow parents to play an active part in the learning process.

The progress check and EYFS profile helps to provide parents and/or carers with a well-rounded picture of their child's knowledge, understanding and abilities.

## 7. Safeguarding and welfare procedures

Our safeguarding and welfare procedures are outlined in our Child Protection Policy and on the [Safeguarding and Child Protection page of our website](#).

The EYFS provision is led by the school's EYFS Leader **Ms Molly Archer**. 10 staff hold an up to date paediatric first aid certificate, one of whom is on the premises at all times. Certificates are displayed in the Year Group areas.

Staffing arrangements are such that the needs of all children are met and that we can ensure their safety. Minimum staffing ratios as set out in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2021 are:

- Nursery: at least one member of staff for every 8 children
- Reception: at least one member of staff for every 30 children

As of September 2022, staffing ratios at Birch Hill Primary School are typically much higher than required:

- Nursery: typically, one member of staff for every 8 children
- Reception: typically, one member of staff for every 15 children

## 8. Monitoring arrangement

The EYFS provision is led by the EYFS Leader who undertakes daily, weekly and half-termly monitoring of all provision.

The provision and progress of the pupils is also monitored at senior leader and Trust level through the School Improvement Plan reviews (termly) and School Evaluation process (half-termly).

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

Statutory policy or procedure for the EYFS	<a href="https://birchhill.ovw2.devwebsite.co.uk/page/?title=Key+Policies+and+Procedures&amp;pid=18">https://birchhill.ovw2.devwebsite.co.uk/page/?title=Key+Policies+and+Procedures&amp;pid=18</a>
Child Protection Policy and Procedures	See Child Protection Policy and school website pages Procedures for Dealing with Allegations against Employees and Adults working or Volunteering in Schools Staff Acceptable Use of IT (Staff)
Procedure for responding to illness	See Health & Safety and First Aid Policies
Administering medicines policy	See Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
Emergency evacuation procedure	See Health & Safety Policy
Procedure for checking the identity of visitors	See Child Protection Policy and Visitor Protocols
Special Educational Needs	See SEND Information Report
Procedures for a parent failing to collect a child and for missing children	See Protocol for Collecting Children and Walking Home Alone
Procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints	See Complaints Policy