

Emmbrook Infant School



Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

Approved by:	Children & Learning Committee &	Date: Autumn 2017	
Last reviewed on:	C&L 10 th October 2017	Frequency of review:	GB free to decide
Next review due by:	Autumn 2020		
Changes made on Review	Date		

INTRODUCTION

The Foundation Stage applies to children from three years to the end of reception year (September after their 5th birthday.)

At Emmbrook Infant School, children join us in September of the academic year within which they turn 5. (Academic year falls between 1st September and 31st August)

Our Aims

- To make the child's first experience of school happy, positive and fun.
- To foster a love of learning, developing enquiring minds.
- To provide a curriculum based on first hand experiences.
- To allow time for children to develop and explore through their own choices.
- To ensure a broad and balanced curriculum through carefully planned adult and child initiated activities, whilst having a regard for the skills and attitudes the Key Stage One curriculum will demand.
- To develop independence and confidence.
- To help children develop their social skills with adults and other children
- To build relationships between home and school.
- To provide experiences in a safe and supportive learning environment.

Teaching in the Foundation Stage:

We create opportunities that encourage children to explore, create, investigate, practise, repeat and discover, using a multi-sensory, fun approach

The staff will:

- be aware of the different ways that children develop and learn and use this to inform teaching and plan a curriculum that helps children achieve the Early Learning Goals by the end of the Foundation Stage.
- have high expectations of children's behaviour and attainment.

Learning

In the Foundation Stage we encourage children to learn by providing:

- a safe, stimulating and child-friendly indoor and outdoor environment
- opportunities to work independently and in groups on child-centred and adult-led activities
- a consistent, cohesive model for behaviour and learning

- a relevant, practical and structured curriculum which develops and evolves according to the age and experience of the children

Purposeful Play in the Foundation Stage

We value play as an essential tool for learning.

Through play children explore and develop learning experiences, which help them make sense of the world. They practise and build up ideas, learn how to control themselves and understand the need for rules. Play gives opportunities to try new things, think creatively and problem solve alongside others in controlled and safe situations.

Inclusion in the Foundation Stage

We aim to meet the needs of all our children by:

- setting realistic and challenging expectations, so that children achieve the Early Learning Goals by the end of the Foundation Stage. We achieve this by planning for different learning styles, children with special educational needs, children who are more able, children with disabilities, children from all social and cultural backgrounds, children in receipt of the Pupil Premium Grant and children with diverse linguistic backgrounds.
- providing a safe and supportive learning environment in which the contributions of all children are valued.
- using resources, which reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping.
- monitoring children's progress and providing support as necessary.

Planning the Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Foundation Stage develops essential life skills.

The Foundation Stage at Emmbrook Infant School reflects the areas of learning identified in the Early Learning Goals.

The Early Learning Goals guide our long term planning.

The school year is divided into topics of different lengths and identifies the intended learning outcomes throughout the year.

Two-weekly Planning focuses on day-to-day activities and offers opportunities for groups to work in phonics, reading and maths groups and Have-a-Go Discovery Club.

Assessment

Early in the first half term in the Foundation Class, the teacher assesses each child against the Development Matters statements. These assessments are reviewed at the end of each term. In the summer term judgements are made against the Early Learning Goals.

During daily group-time staff identify children who need further support and offer this during the afternoon session.

We make continual assessments of children's learning by observation and use this information to ensure future planning reflects individual or group needs. Foundation stage e-profile is regularly updated.

Parents receive an annual report that offers detailed comments on each child's progress in each area of learning. It highlights the child's strengths and development needs. The children are also given opportunity to comment on areas they would like to improve.

Starting at Emmbrook Infant School

At Emmbrook Infant School, we want children to start school happily and confidently. We do this through offering:

- Stay and Play times with parents in the previous summer term
- Home visits
- all parents an induction meeting during the term before their child starts school.
- the children the opportunity to spend time with their teacher before starting school.

Working with Parents:

We ensure strong home-school links through:

- Opportunities for new parents to come into school at the beginning of each term to discuss the terms' activities.
- Formal meetings for parents each term to discuss children's progress.
- Being available to answer any quick questions in the morning
- Encouraging parents to share home achievements through the Star Certificate
- Home learning activities which encourage children to talk about their life and experiences out of school
- Use of the school's Learning Platform
- Weekly opportunities to support the learning in the classroom

Transition into Year One

We ensure a smooth transition into Year One by:

- visiting their new classrooms informally and formally
- conversations with their new teacher
- sharing the Learning Journey and assessment results with Year One staff
- Year One teachers and TAs visiting FS2 setting