



# **FOUNTAINS**

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## PRIMARY SCHOOL

Always achieving our potential

### **EYFS Policy**

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**Ratified:** Mrs Nicola Price (Headteacher) September 2023



**ALWAYS ACHIEVING OUR POTENTIAL**



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## 1. Aims

At Fountains Primary School, we aim to provide the highest quality care and education for all our children, thereby giving them a strong foundation for their future learning. We create a safe and happy environment with motivating and enjoyable learning experiences that enable children to develop personally, socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically, creatively and intellectually. We value the individual child and work alongside parents and others to meet their needs and help every child to reach their full potential.

We aim to:

- Provide a safe, challenging, stimulating environment which is sensitive to all children's needs.
- Provide a broad, balanced, sensitive and creative curriculum which sets in place firm foundations for future learning and development in Key Stage 1 and beyond.
- Engage in a 'can do' approach which supports each child's individual progress
- Enable choice and decision making which fosters independence and self confidence
- Work in partnership with parents and value their contributions irrespective of ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, disabilities, gender or ability.
- Provide an inclusive programme of activities for all children.

## 2. Legislation

This policy is based on requirements set out in the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) that applies from September 2021](#).

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

## 3. Structure of the EYFS

All children starting Fountains Primary School in Nursery or Reception (Penguins Class) will follow an Enhanced Early Years curriculum, Differentiated Early Years Outcomes (DEYO) aligned to Birth to 5 Matters.

Within Fountains Primary school, there are 3 additional classes within school where the children continue to follow the EYFS curriculum to the end of Year 3 when developmentally appropriate, for example, when they have not met any of the Early Learning Goals. These classes are Seals, Seahorses and Whales (Year 1 to Year 3).

Each child is assigned a key person who helps to ensure that their learning and care is tailored to meet their needs. Each key worker has the responsibility of recording and assessing progress under the guidance of the class teacher.

Within Nursery, children are able to access up to 15 hours a week. From Reception, all children access 32 hours a week full time.

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## 4. Principles into Practice

The EYFS is based on four principles:

- **A unique child.** We recognise that every child is an individual learner who has the potential to 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 to encourage and develop a positive attitude to learning.
- **Positive relationships.** We recognise that children learn to be strong and independent from secure relationships. We aim to develop caring, respectful relationships with our children and their families.
- **Enabling environments.** We recognise the effect the environment plays in supporting and extending the children's learning. Through observation, we assess the children's interests, stages of development and learning needs before planning challenging activities and experiences to extend their learning.
- **Learning and development.** The Early Years department is organised to allow children to explore and learn safely. There are areas for children to be active, be quiet and to rest. The room is set up in learning areas and children have access to other activities or resources if they choose.

## 5. Curriculum

Our Early Years setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the 2021 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

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

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



This curriculum is delivered with differentiated adult led tasks and planned learning opportunities matching each individual child and meeting each of the 7 areas. This method develops each child's cultural capital and the teaching of relationships, social interactions and culture. Staff respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interactions. At the core of this is the 'Unique Child', who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured' (EYFS, 2021). All classes have access to an outdoor space and this is used in a range of ways appropriate to the class, for example as free-flow or for specific teaching activities or Forest School.

We ensure that all children experience the awe and wonder of the world in which they live, through the seven areas of learning. The classes that follow the Early Years curriculum follow an EYFS Long Term Plan with carefully planned Early Years sequential projects, lifted directly from the Cornerstones curriculum and then further differentiated by the class teachers. Where a child has a specific need, staff use specialist support and link with relevant services from other agencies for example, the Teacher of the Deaf, Visual Impairment support or Speech and Language Therapist input to enable them to fully access the curriculum.

Alongside this is planned daily time for the teaching of Communication and Language, early reading and phonics, wherever appropriate. Reading is taught through the Read Write Inc programme. This programme is a structured synthetic phonics programme that teaches both reading and spelling. The child progresses through the scheme according to their individual needs. A lot of revision and repetition is built in, as well as the application of phonic skills in all reading and writing. Research shows that children are best taught using this approach leading to better word reading, spelling and reading comprehension. (Johnson et al, 2012). All children within EYFS have the opportunity to explore and take home books from the school library.

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. Each child has a named key person. Their role is to meet the child's learning, development and care needs. The key person contributes to assessment.

## 6. Assessment

At Fountains 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.

When a child is **aged between 2 and 3**, staff review their progress and provide parents and/or carers with a written summary of the child's development in the 3 prime areas. This 'progress check' highlights the areas in which a child is progressing well and the areas in which additional support is needed.

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



At the end of the child's reception year, 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')

All children following the Early Years curriculum will have an individual tracker which teachers will update and data will be shared with parents/carers three times a year. Progress is monitored through 5 steps (emerging, acquiring, developing, generalising and secure) before moving onto the next range (1-6).

## 7. Working with parents and carers

We recognise that children learn and develop well when there is 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. They will receive inform on their child's attainment and progress each term which will be discussed at three parents' evenings, providing parents and/or carers with a well-rounded picture of their child's knowledge, understanding and abilities. We will develop strong partnerships between school and parents/carers as follows:

- By providing a contract between home and school
- By publishing a newsletter each half term outlining the topic and ways parents can support their child's learning
- By providing a homework challenge sheet every half term linking to the current Cornerstones topic
- By inviting parents/carers in every term for a 'Stay and Play' session
- By inviting parents/carers in every term for lunch with their child
- By operating an "open door policy"
- By conducting workshops for parents and carers
- By sharing Learning Journeys with parents and carers
- By messaging through our online communication app 'Reach more parents'.
- By responding to parents requests as soon as possible and aim to respond to phone calls the same day.

## 7.1 Wrap around care

Fountains Primary School provide Breakfast Club and After-school Club which can be accessed by all children in Nursery and Reception. Parents/carers can also sign their child up for summer holidays activities provided by school.

# 8. Safeguarding and welfare

We promote good health and making healthy choices at Fountains Primary School through:

- Offering a range of nutritious foods making up a balanced diet from our school kitchen, if a school dinner is requested.
- Following set procedures when children become ill or have an accident.
- Practicing self-care routines through role play activities
- Encouraging independence during self-care/self-help tasks
- Having drinking water available to children at all times

The rest of our safeguarding and welfare procedures are outlined in our safeguarding policy.

### 8.1. Intimate care

We have a separate policy for intimate care. Please see the policy and risk assessment for further information.

### 8.2. Behaviour

Children's safety and welfare is paramount. We create a safe and secure environment and provide a curriculum which teaches children how to be safe, make choices and assess risks. We have procedures in place to ensure children's safety. The rest of our Behaviour procedures are outlined in our Behaviour Policy.

### 8.3. Sleeping

If children in EYFS begin to fall asleep in the classroom (or any area in or around the EYFS centre) they will be moved into the staff office. It is essential that this quiet area is available and that the child is monitored by a member of staff at all times. This enables children to sleep according to their individual requirements. Staff will need to ensure that the child is on a sleep mat and checked at regular intervals and record every ten minutes using the Sleep Chart with details recorded. You must make arrangements at any time for children to sleep in a quiet area away from others if they are tired. It is essential that any sleeping child must be supervised. You should never leave a sleeping child unattended. The parents/carers for the child must also be informed the child has been asleep and the length of the time.

# 9. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural

This is evident in curriculum planning mainly through the areas of Personal, Social, Emotional Development (PSED), and Understanding the World (UTW). Ranges of cultures are represented in role-play, stories, songs and dressing up costumes. Time for reflection is built into the day and reception children have a daily assembly.

For more information please see our SMSC policy.

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## 10. Pupil voice

Pupil voice is embedded in the curriculum and routines of the day. It is evident in pupil's choice making through a variety of media e.g. speech, objects of reference, gesture, ICT apps, symbols, communication boards and photographs. These opportunities are available across the day in a variety of contexts.

## 11. Transition arrangements

Children entering school in Nursery/Reception are given opportunities to visit for transition sessions before they are due to start school. Children moving from the Early Years building to main school will also be offered transition sessions in their new class. The Early Years class teacher will arrange a home visit and visit to the child's current setting (when applicable) prior to the child starting Fountains Primary School. The class teacher liaises with school staff for children moving into main school or alternatively if they access another setting, such as main stream school.

## Procedure for checking the identity of visitors

Every visitor has to sign in at the main reception of school, before being escorted over to the Early Years building. The normal school safeguarding procedures are followed. (When necessary, we ask for a form of identification verifying who the visitor is and, if appropriate, which organisation they work from). Visitors will not be left unsupervised in the setting. We do not permit entry to visitors who are unknown and/or visitors where we are unable to verify their identity.

## Emergency Evacuation Procedure

We ensure our premises present no risk of fire by ensuring the highest possible standard of fire precautions. All staff are familiar with the current legal requirements.

- A risk assessment is carried out in-line with the main school.
- Fire doors are clearly marked, never obstructed and easily opened for the inside.
- Smoke detectors/alarms and firefighting appliances conform to BSEN standards, are fitted in appropriate high-risk areas of the building and are checked as specified by the manufacturer on a regular basis and this is recorded in the appropriate log book.
- We have a fire evacuation procedure in place which is clearly displayed and each member of staff knows their role within this.
- All of this is explained to new members of staff, volunteers and parents.
- Practiced regularly at least once each term.
- Records are kept of fire drills and the servicing of fire safety equipment.



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

- Safeguarding policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Attendance policy
- Complaints policy