



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Policy

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Prepared By	R. Kavaliauskiene
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1. Aims

We are committed to providing the very best that we can for every child at Tanners Brook Primary School. We strive for the highest standards of care and education and believe in providing exciting experiences that support and inspire memorable and engaging learning and foster a love for learning.

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
- A close working partnership between staff and parents and/or careers
- 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 [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

Tanners Brook Primary School has two Reception classes, with capacity for 60 pupils within the cohort. Starting school can be a difficult time for young children; therefore, we carefully plan transitions and have staggered entries, which means pupils start part time at the beginning of September, with the aim of being in full time by the end of September.

We believe that effective pedagogy is a mix of different approaches. Children learn through play, by adults modelling, by observing each other, and through guided learning and direct teaching. Therefore, we plan a variety of different learning opportunities. In the morning the learning is more structured through teacher led sessions whilst in the afternoon children can choose their own learning and apply their skills independently.

4. Curriculum

Our early years setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the latest version of the EYFS statutory framework that applies from September 2021.

The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. However, 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**:

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

Further to these learning areas the Characteristics of Effective Learning underpin the learning in EYFS.

The **characteristics of effective learning** and teaching are:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically.

4.1 Planning

At Tanners Brook, teachers plan activities and experiences for children that enable them to develop and learn effectively, focusing strongly on the 3 prime areas. Teachers value ideas, play and creativity from our children and where possible adopt their ideas and interests into our child-led responsive planning and teaching. We believe that learning through play is essential for children's development, but equally adult-led structured teaching is necessary to provide the right foundations for good future progress. As children grow older throughout the reception year, a greater focus is on teaching the essential skills and knowledge in the specific areas to help children to prepare for year 1.

Teachers 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, it is considered whether specialist support is required, linking with relevant services from other agencies, where appropriate.

In planning and guiding children's activities, staff 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 carefully planned, purposeful play, alongside a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Adults respond to each child's needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction.

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 in KS1.

5. Assessment

At Tanners Brook Primary School, ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning and development processes throughout Reception year. Adults observe pupils to identify their level of achievement, interests and learning styles. These observations are used to shape future planning. Where possible, teachers also take into account observations shared by parents and/or carers and other adults working within the setting.

Within the first 6 weeks of a child starting reception, staff will administer the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) on 1 to 1 basis alongside observing and getting to know the

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children so we know every child's starting point and can best plan and develop their next steps.

At the **end of the EYFS**, teachers 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 shared with parents and/or carers for their child and with the year 1 teacher to ensure seamless transition into KS1.

The profile is moderated internally (referring to the Development Matters, 2021 [guidance](#)) and in partnership with other local schools, to ensure consistent assessment judgements. EYFS profile data is submitted to the local authority.

6. Working with parents

We recognise that children learn and develop well when there is a strong partnership between school and parents and/or carers and therefore we work very closely to ensure parents are as involved as possible with their child's learning.

Each child is offered a home visit in September prior to starting school so that those early vital relationships can be built. This is a time to meet our new families, answer any personal concerns and questions parents may have.

Throughout the year, parents are invited to a variety of events, for example stay and play sessions, workshops, performances, picnic and sharing our learning afternoons. Weekly newsletters are sent home to share any key information and dates and to inform of what children are learning that week as well as to suggest ideas what parents and /or carers can do at home to support their child.

We also send home reading books and reading records as we believe a children's love of reading and progress in reading is an important joint partnership between school and home.

Parents and/or carers are kept up to date with their child's progress and development throughout the year. Regular parents evenings and sharing the 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

At Tanners Brook Primary School, we comply with welfare requirements as stated in the Statutory framework for Early Years Foundation Stage.

The safety of children is always of paramount importance to us. We aim to educate our children on boundaries, rules and limits and to help them to understand why they exist. We encourage and teach children how to take risks and highlight the importance of keeping themselves safe.

The school takes its child protection responsibilities very seriously. All staff have received (and receive) safeguarding training regularly and follow Tanners Brook Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

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

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8. List of other statutory policies and procedures for the EYFS

Statutory policy or procedure for the EYFS	Where can it be found?
Safeguarding policy and procedures	See child protection and safeguarding policy
Procedure for responding to illness	See health and safety policy
Administering medicines policy	See supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
Emergency evacuation procedure	See health and safety policy
Procedure for checking the identity of visitors	See child protection and safeguarding policy
Procedures for a parent failing to collect a child and for missing children	See child protection and safeguarding policy
Procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints	See complaints policy