

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS) POLICY

Rationale

We acknowledge the statement that “Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child’s experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is the vital component for life-long wellbeing. Good parenting and high-quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.”

We believe it is essential to create an environment of emotional warmth, with consistent praise and encouragement, so that each child feels individually valued, motivated and confident to meet new challenges and reach our high expectations with a sense of achievement.

We use Development Matters guidance in the EYFS as we want all of our children to be successful learners, to be confident individuals and to become responsible citizens.

Aims

- To promote the social, emotional, physical, spiritual and intellectual development of each child.
- To provide a stimulating and safe environment for learning where children can engage in first-hand experiences.
- To support and extend children’s learning through purposeful observation, evaluation and interaction.

Organisation

- The EYFS has one reception class, and three nursery classes, all with their own enclosed outdoor areas, in addition to a large accessible outdoor environment that facilitates the learning opportunities created by the natural world. It is staffed by teachers, teaching assistants, nursery nurses and additional support staff.
- The Head of EYFS is responsible for all of the Early Years Foundation Stage and is closely supported by the teaching staff.

Role of the Headmistress

The Headmistress has:

- appointed a member of staff for the roles of:
 - Head of Early Years, Mrs Anne Burton
 - Prep R Class Teachers, Mrs Marion Hughes
 - Russets Class Teacher, Miss Michaela McMullan
 - Pippins Class Teacher, Mrs. Sarah Brown
 - Codlings Class Teacher, Miss Liana Busby
 - Seedlings Class Teacher Mrs. Michelle Batchelor
 - EYFS Staff, Mrs Laura Cowan

Role of the Early Years Foundation Stage Teachers and Lead Practitioners includes

The Early Years Foundation Stage Teachers will:

- lead the development of the Foundation Stage within the Reception and Nursery Classes.
- review and monitor by discussion with support staff within the Reception and Nursery Classes.
- report to the Head of EYFS/Headmistress on the success and development of the EYFS within the Reception and Nursery Classes.
- will complete the EYFS Profile to provide a reliable, valid and accurate assessment of individual children at the end of the Foundation Stage.
- liaise with the Head of EYFS and the Nursery teaching staff of those children who will be making the transition into Reception.
- in conjunction with the Head of EYFS review and monitor the policies specific to EYFS.

- keep up to date with new developments and resources in regard to the National Framework.
- focus efforts to continually review and promote the curriculum.
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Role of the Head of EYFS includes

The Head of EYFS will:

- lead the development of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- provide guidance and support to all EYFS staff.
- review and monitor by discussion with EYFS staff.
- report to the Headmistress on the success and development of the EYFS.
- keep up to date with new developments and resources in regard to the National Framework.
- focus efforts to continually review and promote the curriculum.
- oversee the day-to-day management of the EYFS, supported by class teachers and lead practitioners, including staff deployment and housekeeping duties.

Role of Teaching and EYFS Practitioners includes

The teaching and practitioner's work:

- together as a team in conjunction with the class teachers and/or Head of EYFS
- to promote confident and independent learners.
- to create a learning environment that reflects learning across all seven areas of the Curriculum.

Curriculum

The EYFS is guided by four main principles:

- A Unique Child
- Positive Relationships
- Enabling Environments
- Learning and Development – Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

We believe these overarching principles shape practice and aim at improving outcomes. They reflect that it is every child's right to grow up safe, healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and with economic well-being.

We greatly value the important role that the Early Years Foundation Stage plays in laying secure foundations for future learning and development. Play underpins the delivery of the EYFS Curriculum. We use the document "Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage" to inform planning in the Nursery and Reception classes. Our curriculum for the EYFS reflects the areas of learning identified in the Early Learning Goals from the *Early Years Foundation Stage Profile Handbook* (Standards and Testing Agency, 2021). Our pupils' learning experiences enable them to develop competency and skill across all the learning areas. The Early Learning Goals are organised into seven areas and provide the basis for planning throughout the EYFS, so layering secure foundations for future learning. We support the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning – Playing and Exploring, Active Learning, Creating and Thinking Critically – which enable the child to be an effective and motivated learner. We aim to create an attractive, welcoming and stimulating learning environment that encourages children to explore, investigate and learn through first-hand experiences. Activities are planned for both inside and outside learning. Continuous provision in the EYFS includes water, tactile, sand and creative areas, ICT, math area, drawing, mark making, writing areas, reading, and role-play areas.

The EYFS curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning, three prime areas and four specific areas:

- Three Prime Areas
 - Communication and Language
 - Physical Development
 - Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Four Specific Areas
 - Literacy
 - Mathematics
 - Understanding the World

- o Expressive Arts & Design

We believe that learning is holistic and none of the areas of learning can be delivered in isolation. All areas are delivered through a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities. One experience may provide children with opportunities to develop a range of competencies, skills and concepts across several areas of learning. Each area of learning works towards relevant Early Learning Goals, which most children are expected to achieve by the end of the EYFS.

Communication and Language

Communication and language development involve giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Early Learning Goals (expected outcomes):

1. Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions.
2. Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding.
3. Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers.
4. Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary.
5. Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.
6. Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher.

It is essential that the right environment is created to ensure the pupils use and listen to appropriate language. Children learn about words, sentence structure and use of language through relaxed one to one interaction with friendly, familiar adults. In the early stages nearly, all curriculum areas are covered orally. We create a wealth of opportunity for pupils to talk to and listen to each other through, for example role play, circle time, simple drama. Staff help children to develop and feel confident in their communication skills by listening to them and showing a genuine interest in both their verbal and non-verbal interactions. Children have the opportunity to extend their communication skills by speaking and listening to visitors, interacting with older children in the school, in assembly or by taking messages to other people within the school.

Physical Development

Physical development involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their coordination, control and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

Early Learning Goals (expected outcomes):

1. Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others.
2. Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing.
3. Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing.
4. Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases.
5. Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes, and cutlery.
6. Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.

We encourage children to develop confidence and control in the way they move handle tools and equipment. We give all children the opportunity to undertake activities that offer appropriate physical challenge, both indoors and outdoors, using a wide range of resources to support specific skills. A peripatetic sport teacher leads weekly PE lessons for the Reception and Russet classes on the school playing field. Peripatetic dance and music teachers also lead weekly music and dance lessons for Reception and the older nursery children. The children change into their PE

kit in school to ensure that they are able to dress independently. Spontaneous learning opportunities, both indoor and outdoor, are provided to ensure that the children are continuing to develop their fine and gross motor skills. Pupils' fine motor skills are developed through a range of experiences, such as the use of dough, clay, cooking, threading, sewing, small construction, planting seeds and weeding.

Dressing and undressing is a vital life skill which we feel is an essential part of the curriculum. From an early age children are encouraged to manage their own shoes, coats and clothing. In Reception, children take responsibility for changing into their PE kit. Staff members assist where necessary but do all they can to encourage children to change independently.

Our outdoor environment is used as a valuable tool to develop children's awareness of a healthy lifestyle. Our raised beds allow the children to experience the anticipation and excitement of growing and sampling their own fruit and vegetables and the large playing field facilitates a plethora of physical games and activities, including our annual sports day.

Personal, Social, and Emotional Development

Personal, social and emotional development involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.

Early Learning Goals (expected outcomes):

1. Show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others and begin to regulate their behaviour accordingly.
2. Set and work towards simple goals, being able to wait for what they want and control their immediate impulses when appropriate.
3. Give focused attention to what the teacher says, responding appropriately even when engaged in activity, and show an ability to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions.
4. Be confident to try new activities and show independence, resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge.
5. Explain the reasons for rules, know right from wrong and try to behave accordingly.
6. Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices.
7. Work and play cooperatively and take turns with others.
8. Form positive attachments to adults and friendships with peers.
9. Show sensitivity to their own and to others' needs.

Small class sizes and excellent staff:child ratios operate within an effective daily routine, which enable children the time, space and opportunity to participate, contribute and become independent learners.

Through Circle Time activities children can develop social skills, acquire interpersonal relationship skills, increase awareness of their feelings and become more responsible for their behaviour. It is a time to foster a caring group feeling where each member is valued and valuable, where each child gets a chance to speak and to be listened to. For those children not yet able to express themselves parents are encouraged to share events and social occasions with us. This enables staff to talk, if necessary, for the child, identifying an occasion and allowing the individual to be part of the group. During lunch times and snack times, there is also an emphasis on social skills and conversation. Children are encouraged to have good manners, learn to eat and drink independently and staff engage in conversation with the children, perhaps discussing the morning's activities. Weekly assemblies for Reception, and later on in the year Russets, are also held that include PSHE topics.

Literacy

Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (environmental print, books, poems and other written materials) to ignite their interest.

Early Learning Goals (expected outcomes):

1. Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.
2. Anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories.
3. Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role play.
4. Say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs.
5. Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending.
6. Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.
7. Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.
8. Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters.
9. Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.

In the EYFS Letters & Sounds is used as a basis for teaching phonics, through the 'Code Breakers' scheme. Letters and Sounds is a six-phase teaching programme designed to help practitioners and teachers teach children how the alphabet and sounds can be learnt for reading and spelling. Children learn how to use the letter sounds to read and write words. Using a structured approach to phonics has provided a secure foundation for reading and writing. This is reflected in pupils' above average results in the school reading tests.

Before the children begin to learn to form letters it is essential to determine appropriate grip and flexibility of hand movement. The large pencils should be used first since they are more readily gripped by little fingers. Children will learn how to form letters as soon as they are able to control a pencil adequately. Time in the Nursery and Reception is spent in reinforcing the manipulative skills needed to form each letter singularly.

All classes will have a range of appropriate fiction and non-fiction books. In Reception the Oxford Reading Tree series in conjunction with other selected sequential and compatible books such as All Aboard and the Lighthouse series, is introduced. This continues as they move through the school. Teachers match the scheme to the reading needs of each child. Children in Reception will be given a reading record along with a suitable book which will be completed and signed by a responsible adult (parent, guardian, grandparent etc.). This will continue throughout their school journey. Sound and word cards are also sent home weekly to consolidate phonics knowledge.

Mathematics

Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces and measures.

Early Learning Goals (expected outcomes):

1. Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number.
2. Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5.
3. Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts.
4. Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system.
5. Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity.
6. Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally.

Young children who are exposed to a range of experiences, where they are able to explore materials that give them direct experiences of size, shape and texture are building foundations for early mathematical understanding. Our Treasure Basket and Heuristic Play sessions give our youngest children time and space to explore open ended everyday objects and natural resources. This develops their knowledge and understanding of the world around them and how it might be sorted, organised and described.

We recognise the value of our daily routine in the development of mathematical concepts and encourage the children to help with the organisation of key parts of their day. For example, the children delight in counting the cups for snack, deciding how many are needed, counting out to ascertain whether there are enough or not enough to go around or sometimes even too many! They enjoy sharing out the food and realising when there is no more. These are all practical ways of introducing quantity and opportunity for counting and one to one correspondence.

In Reception, mathematical concepts are embedded throughout everyday teaching and routines. The children also begin to write numbers and number sentences. The topics that complete the learning goals such as adding one more or one less, are introduced weekly with specific teacher led lessons and activities. Weekly plans review, differentiate and introduce specific skills, preparing the children for the more structured lessons of Year 1.

Spontaneous learning opportunities, both indoor and outdoor, are provided to promote the social skills and develop mathematical understanding through stories, songs, rhymes and finger games, board games, sand and water, construction on a large and small scale, imaginative play, outdoor play and "playground" games, cooking and shopping, two- and three-dimensional creative work with a range of materials, and by observing numbers and patterns in the environment and daily routines.

Understanding the World

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

Early Learning Goals (expected outcomes):

1. Talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society.
2. Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
3. Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling.
4. Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps.
5. Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
6. Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and (when appropriate) maps.
7. Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.
8. Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
9. Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

Early learning for children depends upon their sense of who they are and who is part of their personal world. We work with parents and families so that children understand about different cultures, beliefs and values. Children are encouraged to bring in photographs from home to share with the class. Learning opportunities help children develop a sense of self-worth; for example, sharing stories and role play opportunities using a variety of resources reflect the diversity of children's experiences.

We explore the similarities, differences and features of the local environment; we take regular walks around the grounds to discover the seasonal changes, noting the spring blossom on the trees, the growing summer flowers and vegetables and the falling autumn leaves; we compare our own homes with those of others by strolling down the road and noting the different styles of buildings. Additional learning opportunities include providing stories that help children make sense of different environments; resources to create and explore maps and plans; well-equipped paintings, modelling and drawing areas for the construction of familiar and imaginary landscapes.

The younger children enjoy a range of activity toys and equipment with buttons and knobs for them to begin to understand the concept of cause and effect. Appliances such as vacuum cleaners, steam cleaners and CD players are also used in view of the children.

Our older children have the use of a CD player to listen to stories and music; they use whisks during cooking activities

and investigate the potential of torches when exploring the 'dark dens'. Our 'Chromebook' laptops are introduced in our oldest nursery class and Reception. Children learn to control the mouse, use a keyboard and navigate through programmes as they complete simple activities.

Expressive Arts and Design

Expressive arts and design involve enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.

Early Learning Goals (expected outcomes):

1. Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.
2. Share their creations, explaining the process they have used.
3. Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.
4. Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher.
5. Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs.
6. Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and (when appropriate) try to move in time with music.

We recognise that singing and sound making is a very enjoyable experience for young children. Provision is made for the regular exploration of a wide range of instruments, listening to different styles of music and singing. Peripatetic teachers give dance, music and singing lessons to the older nursery children and Reception.

The provision of stimuli such as fur and other tactile fabrics, pictures, paintings, poems, music, dance and storytelling extend children's experiences and expand their imagination.

Materials are accessible to enable children to create and develop their ideas and designs. Resources are provided for mixing colours, joining things together and combining materials. Structured creative activities are planned to help children to learn new skills and extend those they already have.

Organisation of Resources in the EYFS

We ensure the safe use and storage of resources. However, to support children's independence and problem-solving skills, wherever possible, resources and equipment are clearly labelled and accessible enabling the children to find and return them independently.

Planning in the EYFS

Observation, assessment and planning all feed into one another and contribute to our knowledge of the child. The observations made, together with information from parents and other evidence collected, feed into the day-to-day provision, experiences and interactions planned for the children.

To plan for breadth and balance in the curriculum documentation includes long, medium- and short-term planning. The long-term planning provides a structure which helps to ensure all areas of Learning and Development and the principles in the EYFS are covered. The timetables and routines ensure a balance of indoor and outdoor activities with quiet periods and quiet areas and maintain a balance of opportunities for supporting a range of freely chosen play opportunities and continuous provision (Key Experiences) with well-planned adult-led activities.

The medium-term planning includes types of experiences and activities that are appropriate for the age and developmental stage of the group and which support the EYFS Principles. It also highlights spontaneous learning opportunities, which allow for observation and assessment to further evaluate individual needs within the class.

Short term planning is flexible to enable staff to respond to newly identified interests, needs and learning opportunities in the environment. For example, a new baby in the family, a snowy day, a rainbow. Short term planning is done weekly or even daily and uses as its base the experiences and needs of each child and aspects from the Medium-Term Plans. These plans also outline the adult supported learning and activities as well as links to the EYFS. Teachers evaluate their plans weekly or daily and these evaluations are considered for future planning. Outdoor learning is planned on a daily basis so as to reflect the immediate interests and needs of the children. This

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may be anything from free flow, under the canopied area or planned adult led activities on the playground or field.

For more information, please see the EYFS Planning Process.

Assessment and the EYFS profile

We adhere to the Childcare Act Section 39(1)(a) 2006, which stipulates that Early Years providers must ensure that their provision meets the learning and development requirements as specified in the EYFS (Learning and Development Requirements) Order 2007 (amended 2012 & 2014). We therefore review each child's progress at two years old and undertake an assessment at the end of the Reception Year against the 17 Early Learning Goals (ELGs) as set out in the Foundation Stage Profile Handbook 2021 (Standards & Testing Agency, 2012). Assessment in the Early Years Foundation Stage is on-going and is an integral part of the learning and development process.

At Orchard School we collect evidence and knowledge throughout the year to enable us to be able to assess each child against the ELGs at the end of the Reception year. This evidence is used to produce an Early Years Profile for each child in the summer term. A completed profile contains 20 items of information: the attainment of the child assessed in relation to the 17 ELG descriptors (i.e., whether they are meeting the **expected** outcome for the end of the EYFS, **exceeding** the expected outcome, or if the skill is **emerging**). The information in the EYFS profile is passed on to the

Year One teacher at the end of the year to allow them to provide an easy transition into Key Stage One, and is also shared with parents/ carers.

Assessment information is shared throughout the year with parents, beginning with a 'First Steps' report which details how their child has settled into their new class, it is completed during the Autumn term. We have formal parent's evenings in November and March, where parents can meet with their child's class teacher or key worker to discuss their progression and development. Here, parents are also able to view their child's Learning Journey book. End of year reports are sent out to parents at the end of the summer term. All of our reports invite a comment of feedback from parents to be returned.

All assessment in Orchard School EYFS is on-going: we collect evidence throughout the year and use the descriptors listed in the document '*Development Matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage*' (British Association for Early Childhood Education, 2012) to enable us to monitor and assess children's progress continuously throughout the year and best plan for the future learning and development of the children in our care.

We use a range of methods to assess. We capture spontaneous moments of learning using informal methods such as observations, photos, and work samples. We also plan to observe children using running observations, Learning Stories and complete more formal assessments such as Performance Indicators in Primary Schools (PIPS), which are completed on a 1:1 basis with each child on entry and at the end of Reception. Our assessments are always based on our knowledge of the children in our care.

When children enter Orchard School Reception class, we assess their knowledge of letters and sounds. This enables us to teach each child to read in a way which best suits their learning style and needs. We assess reading and phonics continuously. This is recorded on a daily reading assessment tracking form and in a Reading Record, which each child takes home. The children's parents may also then comment on their child's progress in reading, so as to better inform the teachers, and provide an alternate perspective on each child's abilities.

At Orchard School we are mindful of the fact that the EYFS profile should not be completed solely with the knowledge of a single practitioner. As such we take into account a range of viewpoints when making our final judgements for the EYFS profile in order to build a more holistic view of each child's skills and achievements. This will include information from other adults who are in contact with the children: teaching assistants, peripatetic teachers and support staff (e.g., speech therapists) where applicable. All assessment at Orchard School is completed with a view to informing our future planning so that we may best meet the individual needs of each child in our care.

For more information, please see the EYFS Formative Assessment Process.

Involving and consulting children and their parents

In the EYFS at Orchard, children in charge of their own learning. We take priority in following children's interests and taking their lead in what they enjoy learning. We use these interests as flexibility to plan day to day activities in key experiences. This is also used to inform planning for the next week and half term, helping us to build on our knowledge of each child individually. In Reception, at the beginning of each topic the children talk about what they would like to find out about this area, these are recorded and determines the direction in which the topic is heading over the next half term. Teachers use this to plan experiences and activities related. Also, in Reception, children begin to take responsibility for their learning and set personal challenges and targets.

We also welcome and utilise the input of parents in the EYFS. This may be from sources such as the reading record, which charts informally achievements which children make at home, through the youngest children's daily diaries or more formally, through parent meetings and parents' evening. Home observation forms are sent home each half term, in which parents are encouraged to record an observation of their child, take a photo and send this into become part of their Learning Journey.

Marking in the EYFS

In the EYFS 'marking' involves going through activities with each child, providing verbal feedback on any written work that they may have produced. Where there has been a whole class activity, the teacher will look through each child's work with them on a 1:1 basis and correct any misunderstandings or errors that may have arisen. We believe that marking at Orchard School EYFS should not be solely to focus on errors; therefore, teachers will identify strengths of the work with the child, and may suggest to the child what to focus on in the future or provide a next step, for e.g. 'I like the way you have remembered to use finger spaces. That's great! Next time let's also try to remember to sit our letters on the line'. In more informal, small group work, the teacher or TA will work with the child, providing feedback as the child works through the set activity.

In Reception, the teacher or TA will mark written work where appropriate and will indicate if the work has been completed with full support (FS), some support (SS) or independently (I). In Literacy and Mathematics books a traffic light system is used alongside this. When providing feedback to the child, the teacher may add a sticker/stamp/smiley symbol to reward the child for good work.

Role of Parents in the EYFS

We ask all parents to:

- work in partnership with the school;
- attend the 'Meet the Teacher Evening' talks which are given to Nursery and Reception parents;
- attend parent-teacher consultation meetings;
- attend other curriculum workshops such as about phonics or reading.
- work with their children at home on relevant learning activities or homework initiated by the school.
- provide input relating to their child's learning and development to give the school a more rounded view of each child's skills and achievements.
- regularly access the Orchard School Forum to keep up to date with what is happening in their child's class as well as using this to communicate to members of staff.

Behaviour in the EYFS

At Orchard School EYFS we recognise that behaviour management techniques must be adapted to take into account the development of young children in the foundation stage. Our behaviour management strategies in the EYFS are based upon the whole school behaviour policy, but with adaptations to account for the children's young age. In the EYFS our behaviour management strategies are, where possible, positive. It is expected that all staff members who work at Orchard School EYFS will use and promote positive language with children where possible. Our behaviour management strategies at Orchard School EYFS are based on the following key principles:

1. We model expected behaviour.
2. We use eye contact with children.
3. We use our body language as well as our words.
4. We use specific praise to reward positive behaviour.
5. Where possible, we ignore negative or attention seeking behaviour.
6. We phrase our requests in a positive manner.
7. We promote independence and responsibility.

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8. We use our knowledge of each child as an individual.
9. We do not make assumptions about young children's understanding.
10. We empower children to choose the right course of action.

Please see the 'Early Years Foundation Stage Behaviour Management Policy' for more details.

EAL in the EYFS

In the EYFS we plan opportunities for children to develop their English, and we provide support to help them take part in activities. The EYFS helps children learning English as an additional language by:

- building on children's experiences of language at home and in the wider community, so that their developing uses of English and of other languages support one another;
- providing a range of opportunities for children to engage in speaking and listening activities in English with peers and adults;
- ensuring that our teaching and learning environments are supplemented with visual aids and timetables;
- providing a variety of writing in the children's home language as well as in English, if requested;
- providing opportunities for children to hear their home languages as well as English, if requested;
- providing school information in the language of the parent's choice, if requested;
- If necessary, we also ask parents to furnish us with and continually update us with a list of key words and phrases that they and their children use in their native language so that if the child communicates with us in their native tongue at school we can support and reinforce this communication.

For further information please see Orchard School 'EAL policy'.

SEND and Inclusion.

At Orchard School EYFS we believe that all our children matter. We give our children every opportunity to achieve their potential by taking account of our children's range of life experiences when planning for their learning. In the EYFS we set realistic and challenging expectations that meet the needs of our children, so that most achieve the Early Learning Goals by the end of the foundation stage. Some children progress beyond this point. For these children we differentiate within the classroom in order to stretch them, where necessary planning more advanced activities which build upon and advance the work that the rest of the class is completing.

At Orchard School, we are aware that some children may not progress at the expected rate as outlined in the document 'Development Matters in the EYFS' (Early Education, 2014). We identify those children who do not meet these developmental milestones through a range of methods, including:

- Information from parents
- Information/records from Playgroups/Nurseries/Pre-Schools
- Information from outside agencies
- On-going teacher observations
- Foundation Stage Profile
- Annual school reports

Those children who may need additional help to meet the Early Learning Goals are largely supported in the EYFS through in-class strategies that are implemented by the class teacher. These may include:

- Planning opportunities that build upon and extend children's knowledge, experience and interests, and develop their self-esteem and confidence;
- Using a wide range of teaching strategies based on children's learning needs;
- Providing extra time/ 1:1 activities/ intervention groups with the class teacher or teaching assistant that focus on key areas for development.
- Providing a wide range of opportunities to motivate and support children and to help them to learn effectively;
- Providing a safe and supportive learning environment in which the contribution of all children is valued;
- Using resources and activities which meet as many of the seven areas of learning as possible: this allows children with different learning styles to engage to their fullest potential;
- Planning challenging activities for children whose ability and understanding are in advance of their language

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Orchard School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. It is our aim that all pupils fulfil their potential.

- and communication skills;
- Monitoring children's progress and taking action to provide support as necessary. This involves speech therapy for some of our children.

For further information please see Orchard School 'SEND policy'.

Gifted and Talented in the EYFS

In the EYFS at Orchard School, we aim to stretch and challenge all children so that they can reach their full potential. By building close relationships with the children, practitioners are able to understand in depth a child's strengths and areas of knowledge. These can then be monitored through our assessment procedures and extended upon. If a practitioner believes a child to be gifted or talented, they are to take advice from the Head of EYFS. Observations are made of the child and discussions had with the Deputy Head and the child's parents. Children who are gifted or talented are extended and challenged in a variety of ways, these include:

- planning an extension activity, either adult initiated or during key experiences, to meet the needs of child who is gifted or talented.
- using specific questioning when teaching, to ensure a deeper level of thinking is reached.
- working with parents and sending home extra work or activities which can be completed to further extend and challenge.
- giving children the opportunity to reflect on, evaluate and be critical of their own learning.
- children who are working at a higher level than other children in their class may also be included in enrichment clubs or lessons with older children.

Please see the Orchard School 'Gifted and Talented Policy' for further details.

Accessibility in the EYFS

Children in the EYFS at Orchard School are accommodated in the two-storey school building on Higham Road. All classrooms are accessed via a door from the outside area. Parents of children in Nursery and Reception drop off children, to the class teacher, at the door of their cloakroom areas. Allowing children to come through and take off their coats and shoes independently. Parents can park in the designated parking areas between 8 a.m. and 8.50 a.m., 3.20 p.m. and 3.45 p.m. and from 5.15 p.m. until 6p.m. Each classroom has its own toilets, changing and medical facilities available. Nursery children eat their snack and meals in the classroom and Reception children join the main school for the family lunch. Children from Russets and Reception can attend Breakfast Club or the after-school Beacons club, where they are given tea.

The classes are on one level, with large doorways and corridors. We have experience of working with children who display a range of disability, including delays in learning, and we are keen to extend our knowledge and skill in this area.

Safeguarding and protecting children in the EYFS

If a member of staff suspects abuses e.g., through physical injury etc. they must:

- **LISTEN to what the child has to say. Do not discuss the situation; reassure the child but advise that you cannot promise to keep a secret.**
- **REPORT all suspicions immediately to our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for the whole school inclusive of the EYFS is: Mrs. Alison Harman, Head of Academic Studies - Telephone number during school hours: 01582 882054 or out of school hours 07770274872. Email: alisonharman@orchardschool.org.uk.**
In the absence of the DSL inform the Deputy DSL: Mrs Anne Burton, Head of EYFS Telephone number during school hours: 01582 882054 or out of school hours 07734036402. Email: anneburton@orchardschool.org.uk

The DSL or a Deputy DSL will then contact the local authority Access and Referral Hub / Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) (The Disclosure and Barring Service and Policy may also be contacted as appropriate)

- **RECORD** in detail the circumstances (including the nature and extend of any injuries) and the action taken.
YOU MUST NOT INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT.
- **REMEMBER – speed is essential.**
- **IN THE EVENT OF A CONCERN ABOUT A STAFF MEMBER** the person making the allegation or having a concern should immediately contact the Central Bedfordshire Council LADO by telephone on 0300 300 4833. If the

LADO is not available contact the Central Bedfordshire Council Access and Referral Hub on 0300 300 8585 Mon –Thurs 8:45am – 5:20pm, Fri 8:45am – 4:20pm, 0300 330 8123 Out of Hours. This process also applies where allegations involve the Headmistress or the Deputy Headmistress who are also the Proprietors.

The Orchard School EYFS Department ensures that the [Child Protection](#)/safeguarding policy which applies to the rest of the school also applies to the EYFS and will:

- inform Ofsted of any allegations of serious harm or abuse by any person living, working or looking after children at the premises (whether that allegation relates to harm or abuse committed on the premises or elsewhere), or any other abuse which is alleged to have taken place on the premises, and of the action taken in respect of these allegations.
- inform Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practicable, but at the least within 14 days.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Contact Details

- [Mrs Alison Harman](#) is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for the whole school and Nursery, [Mrs Anne Burton](#) is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Deputy DSL) for the whole school [and with particular reference for EYFS](#). The above can be contacted by telephone during school hours on: 01582 882054
- The email contact is: alison.harman@orchardschool.org.uk

For further information, please see 'Orchard School [Child Protection](#)/Safeguarding Policy'.

Effectiveness

We believe this policy will be effective only if we ensure consistency across the school by regular monitoring.

Signed

Date: March 2021

Review Date: Before September 2021 in light of new EYFS statutory Framework to come into force in September 2021

Mrs Anne Burton
Headmistress and Proprietor

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