



Coastal Learning
PARTNERSHIP

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) policy Wareham St Mary CE Primary School



This policy has undergone an Equalities Impact Assessment in line with the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty

Committee:	Achievement
Policy Ratified:	October 2024
Review Date:	October 2027

Additional School Procedure	
Committee:	
Procedure Adopted:	
Review Date:	

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure:

- Children access a broad and balanced curriculum that provides them with the 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 carers
- Every child is included and supported through equity 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](#). It should be read alongside the following policies:

- Safeguarding policy and procedures
- Administering medicines policy
- Procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints
- Pupils with SEND
- Admissions Policy

3. Responsibilities

Full Trust Board

- Ensure an appropriate and compliant policy exists and is reviewed on a triennial basis or when statute/guidance changes;
- Ensure that individual schools within the Partnership comply with statutory reporting arrangements in relation to the EYFS.

Local Governing Body

- Hold school leaders to account for implementing the Partnership's policy and ensuring compliance with statutory duties set out in the statutory framework;
- Establish the appropriate staffing and funding arrangements for pupils within the EYFS;
- Consider the appointment of a link Governor for EYFS where this is identified as a priority for improvement with school specific improvement plan;
- Publish information on the school website that sets arrangements for new starters in EYFS, including the right for parents/carers to access fulltime education from the beginning of the academic year.

Headteacher

- Develop the school specific approach to delivery of the EYFS framework through its chosen curriculum whilst ensuring collaboration with the wider Partnership;
- Provide the LGB with a termly update on the EYFS through the school status report
- Ensure compliance and participation with the Partnership's reporting arrangements in relation to assessment;
- Ensure school representation at Partnership moderation and network events;

- Make arrangements for the induction of pupils at the start of EYFS, including through engagement with families and other EYFS settings;
- Work with the Local Authority to place pupils in accordance with the Admissions code and SEND code.

4. Applying the EYFS framework

Partnership schools are required to comply with all aspects of the framework with a particular focus on the requirements for learning and development and for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.

The learning and development requirements cover:

- The areas of learning and development which must shape activities and experiences for children in all early years settings;
- The early learning goals that providers must help children work towards;
- Assessment arrangements for measuring progress (and requirements for reporting to parents and/or carers).

The safeguarding requirements cover the steps that providers must take to keep children safe and promote their welfare. Schools must refer to the Partnership's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

Areas of Learning

The EYFS framework includes seven areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. However, three 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

5. Assessment

Within the first 6 weeks that a child starts reception, staff must administer the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA). Children can only be dis-applied from this assessment in extremely limited circumstances, for example a profound special need that would prevent participation.

Partnership schools must submit a summative assessment at the end of the autumn and spring terms against the seven areas of learning. These assessments should be informed by professional discussion about the development of each child.

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.

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

There is no requirement for teachers to gather burdensome evidence to support their judgements, over and above that which a child would ordinarily produce at school.

6. Our chosen approach to curriculum

In Reception, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. The curriculum consists of 7 areas of learning which are divided into Prime Areas (Communication and Language; Personal Development and Physical Development) and Specific Areas (Literacy; Maths; Understanding of the World and Expressive Arts and Design).

We lead a creative curriculum where children are the 'boss' of their own learning. Our curriculum enables us to provide endless learning opportunities, both indoors and outdoors, which aim to support, deepen children's knowledge and consolidate learning. Each half term we have a different learning topic. As well as discrete daily Phonics, Reading and Writing sessions, we offer continuous provision where children can practise and apply their learning.

Please see our Ladybirds class page for further details.

<https://www.warehamstmary.dorset.sch.uk/ladybirds-reception-class/>

7. Our chosen approach to working with parents and/or 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 throughout the year. 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 etc.

Before a child starts in Reception, we offer a number of Stay and Play transition sessions. We hold a 1:1 meeting with all families to ensure that we know children as well as we can before they start with us. The Reception Teacher visits the child in the setting they attend before starting school to support with transition. Parents are invited to attend a welcome meeting to introduce families to the school and what Reception looks like at Wareham St Mary Primary School.

We pride ourselves on close working relationships with our parents and carers. We have a class page on the school's website as a means of sharing the children's learning with parents and we also have a class email address so that parents can be in direct contact with the class teacher. Each week parents receive a learning letter via Arbor to provide a detailed summary of what learning has

taken place and photos of the learning environment and their children are available to view on Ladybirds class page.

Parents are invited to parent consultations which are held in the Autumn and Spring Term to discuss their child's progress, next steps and how they can support their learning at home.

We welcome prospective parents by touring the school and school grounds.

Appendix 1. List of 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
Administering medicines policy	See supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
Procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints	See complaints policy
Pupils with SEND	See SEND policy