# Holy Trinity CofE Primary School

# Early Years Policy

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## Contents:

**Vision Statement**

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Roles and responsibilities
3. Aims
4. Learning and development
5. Assessment
6. Inclusion
7. The learning environment and outdoor spaces
8. Safeguarding and welfare
9. Mobile phones and devices
10. ICT lessons
11. Health and safety
12. Staff taking medication or other substances
13. Staffing
14. Information and records
15. Parental involvement
16. Transition periods
17. Monitoring and review

## Vision Statement

At Holy Trinity we believe that all people are precious and honoured in God's sight. From this belief comes a determination for all within our community to experience life in all its fullness, as promised by Jesus.

We embrace the holistic development for all in our community so that they may flourish academically, emotionally, and spiritually.

All that we do is underpinned by the modelling and promotion of six core values. These are: Justice, Service, Perseverance, Gratitude, Compassion, Courage and build on previous values of Peace, Hope, Friendship, Respect, Honesty and Forgiveness.

We offer a vision of human flourishing for all, one that embraces excellence and academic rigor, but sets them in a wider framework.

## Statement of intent

At Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, we greatly value the importance of the EYFS in providing a secure foundation for future learning and development.

This policy has been developed in conjunction with the relevant DFE guidance and legislation to ensure that each child has a happy and positive start to their school life in which they can build a foundation for a love of learning.

We ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. We promote teaching and learning to ensure children's readiness for the next stage of their education, and give children a broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

We seek to provide:

- **Quality and consistency**, so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind.
- **A secure foundation** through learning and development opportunities which are planned around the needs and interests of each child and are assessed and reviewed regularly.
- **Partnership working** between practitioners and parents.

**Equality of opportunity** and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported.

## 1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Childcare Act 2006
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2021) 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'
- DfE (2021) 'Early years foundation stage profile: 2022 handbook'
- DfE (2021) 'Development Matters'

- DfE (2021) ‘Keeping children safe in education 2021’
- DfE (2018) ‘Working Together to Safeguard Children’
- DfE (2015) ‘The Prevent duty’
- UK Council for Internet Safety (2020) ‘Education for a Connected World’

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Early Years Assessment Policy
- Early Years Teaching and Learning Policy
- Nursery Admissions Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Pupil Equality and Diversity Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy and Information Report
- Online Safety Policy
- First aid and Administration of Medication Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Staff Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Data Protection Policy

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Ensuring there is a policy in place to safeguard children that includes an explanation of the action to be taken when there are safeguarding concerns about a child, the use of mobile phones and cameras, and staff safeguarding training requirements. These issues are addressed in part in this policy and in further detail in the school’s Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Photography Policy.

- Ensuring there is a policy in place in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff (including supply staff) or a volunteer. These issues are addressed in the school's Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy.
- Monitoring the implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring that this policy does not discriminate on any grounds.
- Handling complaints regarding this policy, as outlined in the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The EYFS lead, in conjunction with the headteacher, has responsibility for the day-to-day implementation and management of this policy.

Staff, including teachers, support staff, supply staff and volunteers, are responsible for:

- Familiarising themselves with, and following, this policy.
- Remaining alert to any issues of concern in children.

## 3. Aims

Through the implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- Give each child a happy and positive start to their school life in which they can establish a solid foundation for a love of learning.
- Enable each child to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally, morally and socially – in line with our school vision.
- Enable children to build positive learning behaviours including independence, cooperation and inquisitiveness – all within a within a secure and friendly atmosphere.
- Enable children to develop strong self-regulation skills and executive function, helping them to better focus thinking, regulate strong emotions, learn to adapt, be patient, plan and overcome difficulties.
- Work alongside parents to meet each child's individual needs to ensure they reach their full potential – in line with our vision of human flourishing for all.

Four overarching principles shape our practice:

- Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**.

- Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments with teaching and support from adults**, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between the school and parents.
- **Learning and development** is important. Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

To put these principles into practice, the school:

- Provides a balanced curriculum which takes children's different stages of development into account.
- Promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.
- Works in partnership with parents.
- Plans challenging learning experiences, based on individual needs, which are informed by observation and assessment.
- Provides a safe and secure learning environment.

## 4. Learning and development

In partnership with parents, the school promotes the learning and development of children to ensure they are ready for the next stage of education.

The EYFS provision and practice is based on an observation of children's needs, interests and stages of development. Learning and development in school are planned to reflect these interests and individual circumstances in order to provide each child with a challenging and enjoyable experience.

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape education programmes in EYFS settings. These are split into two important and interconnected sections – prime and specific:

The 'prime' areas of learning and development are:

- Communication and language:
    - Listening, attention and understanding
    - Speaking
- Physical development:
    - Gross motor skills
    - Fine motor skills

- Personal, social and emotional development:
    - Self-regulation
    - Managing self
    - Building relationships

The ‘specific’ areas of learning and development are:

- Literacy:
    - Comprehension
    - Word reading
    - Writing
- Mathematics:
    - Numbers
    - Numerical patterns
- Understanding the world:
    - Past and present
    - People, culture and communities
    - The natural world
- Expressive arts and design:
    - Creating with materials
    - Being imaginative and expressive

In organising and implementing educational programmes, we ensure that a broad range of activities and experiences are planned, having regard to three characteristics of effective teaching and learning in the EYFS:

- Playing and exploring – children investigate and experience things, use what they know in their play and are willing to try new things.
- Active learning – children concentrate, keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy their achievements.

- Creating and thinking critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and use what they already know to learn new things, and develop strategies for doing things.

Further information regarding learning and development, including how these link to and underpin the national curriculum in KS1 and beyond, is set out in the school's Early Years Teaching and Learning Policy.

## 5. Assessment

Assessment plays an important part in helping the school to recognise children's progress, understand their needs, plan activities, and assess the need for support.

Parents will be kept up-to-date with their child's progress and development, and the EYFS lead/teachers will address any learning and development needs in partnership with parents.

Ongoing formative assessments are used to assess the day-to-day learning and development of children in the EYFS. Practitioners interact and observe children to understand their interests and learning needs, and will use this information to inform practice and provision for each child.

The EYFS setting will undertake a summative assessment of the level of each child's development at certain stages. These are:

- Wellcomm Language assessments at the end of Nursery.
- Reception Baseline Assessment – a short assessment which is taken within the first six weeks of a child starting Reception year.
- The EYFS Profile – a comprehensive assessment completed at the end of the EYFS to provide a well-rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities, attainment against the early learning goals (ELGs), and their readiness for Year 1.

The school ensures that teachers actively engage children, their parents and other adults who have significant interaction with specific children in their assessment processes to provide a well-rounded picture of their development and attainment.

The school will ensure that assessment processes do not prevent teachers and practitioners from spending as much time as possible interacting with children and directly supporting their learning and development. Teachers will not be required to record or document evidence to prove children's level of development; however, they may decide to record particularly noteworthy achievements in order to plan teaching and where this is beneficial for building knowledge of children.

The school reports EYFS Profile results to the LA when these are requested. The LA is under a duty to return this data to the relevant government department.

Reasonable adjustments will be made to the assessment process for children with SEND as appropriate.

The class teacher will discuss any cause for concern in a child's progress with the child's parents, especially where this concern relates to the prime areas of learning. A strategy of support will be agreed upon and consideration will be taken as to whether the child may have SEND which requires additional support.

The school takes reasonable steps to provide opportunities for children with EAL to use their home language in play and learning whilst also ensuring that these children have sufficient opportunities to reach a good standard of English. During assessment, if it is found that a child does not have a strong grasp of English language, the EYFS lead will contact the child's parents to establish their home language skills to establish whether there is cause for concern about a language delay.

Assessment procedures are set out in full in the Early Years Assessment Policy.

## 6. Inclusion

All children are valued as individuals irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, background, ability or gender. The Pupil Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy ensures that the needs of all children are met, regardless of any protected characteristics they have.

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy ensures all children receive the support they need and are given the best learning experience possible. SEND in the EYFS setting will be monitored and managed by the school's SENCO.

The EYFS curriculum is planned in order to meet the needs of the individual child and support them at their own pace.

## 7. The learning environment and outdoor spaces

The learning environment is organised in such a way that children can explore and learn independently in a safe and interactive environment. Continuous provision is planned across Nursery and Reception to ensure that children of all abilities can be sufficiently challenged as they access the learning environment.

Children in Nursery and Reception have access to a shared, enclosed outdoor environment. Daily access to the outdoor environment is planned, unless circumstances, such as the weather, would make outdoor activity inappropriate and unsafe. Our outdoor environment is planned to provide children with the opportunity to develop skills in all areas of development. Being outdoors allows children to do things in different ways and on different scales. They can be physically active, engage in a wide range of open ended activities and take measured risks with their play.

There are separate toilet facilities within the EYFS setting of the appropriate size, with stepping stools available. Spare clothes, wipes and PPI equipment are stored within the EYFS toilets. Nappy changing facilities are also available, however nursery parents are encouraged to send their child in pull ups instead of nappies if they are not yet toilet trained.

## 8. Safeguarding and welfare

All necessary steps are taken to keep the children in our care safe and well. Any safeguarding or welfare issues will be dealt with in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, and all members of staff in the EYFS are required to read this policy as part of their induction training.

The DSL is Sally Roberts. The deputy DSLs include; Jo Corbett, Santosh Devi, Jayne O'Neill, Katie Lewis (EYFS Lead), Eamon Corby and Tracey James.

The DSL is responsible for safeguarding children and liaising with local children's services as appropriate. The deputy DSL will undertake the duties of the DSL in their absence, but overall responsibility for safeguarding will remain with the DSL. The DSL and deputy DSL will undertake child protection training as required.

Staff will receive safeguarding training that enables them to understand the safeguarding policy and procedures, have up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding issues, and recognise signs of potential abuse and neglect.

## 9. Mobile phones and devices

For the purposes of this policy, the term 'mobile phone' refers to any electronic device that can be used to take images or record videos, including tablets.

Photography policies and procedures are addressed in full in our Photography Policy.

**Use of personal mobile phones by staff members**

Staff members must not use personal mobile phones or cameras when children are present. Staff may use mobile phones on school premises outside of working hours when no children are present. Staff may use mobile phones in the staffroom during breaks and non-contact time. Mobile phones should be safely stored and in silent mode whilst children are present.

Staff may take mobile phones on trips, but they must only be used in emergencies and should not be used when children are present. Mobile phones must not be used to take images or videos at any time during trips.

Staff who do not adhere to this policy will face disciplinary action. Staff must report any concerns about another staff member's use of mobile phones to the DSL, following the

procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and the Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy.

Staff may use their professional judgement in emergency situations.

**Use of mobile phones by parents, visitors and contractors**

Posters are used around the setting to indicate that it is a mobile free zone.

Parents, visitors and contractors are not permitted to take photographs or record videos without prior permission. Parents may take photographs and videos only containing their own child during school events. Parents may take group photographs at school events but only with the informed consent of the parents of the children involved.

The school strongly advises against the publication of any photographs or videos taken at the school or school events on social media. Staff must report all concerns about parents, visitors and contractors to the DSL, following the procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

**Use of the school's mobile phones and cameras**

Staff are provided with a school device to ensure that only school devices are used to take photographs and videos. School devices must have passcode protection.

School devices must only be used for work related matters, for example recording and documenting a child's learning. School devices must only be used to take photographs with the consent of the child's parent.

Staff must not take photographs of bruising or injuries for child protection reasons. Instead, recording concerns forms and body maps are used to record observations relating to child protection concerns – these can be acquired from the DSL.

School devices must not be taken off school premises without prior written permission from the headteacher. Where staff members have concerns over material on a school device, they must report all concerns to the DSL, following the procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

## 10. Technology lessons/ use of ICT in the continuous provision

ICT equipment will be available and used to give children the opportunity to use technology, equip them for the demands of the developing digital world, and prepare them for the next step in their education. When utilising technology, e.g. laptops and tablets, the school will have due regard for the 'Education for a Connected World' framework when shaping what children are taught. The school aims to:

- Help children work more independently.
- Enable children to develop and enhance their work.
- Encourage children to collaborate on projects.

- Give children the skills and tools to access a wide range of information, ideas and cultures.
- Help children develop skills that can be used in other areas of the curriculum.
- Help children develop good control and coordination through using ICT equipment.
- Encourage children to represent their ideas, thoughts and feelings through technology.

In accordance with the DfE's 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage', all educational programmes offered by the setting, including ICT, will work towards the early learning goals (ELGs). This includes:

- **Communication and language**: ICT helps children to develop their self-expression confidence and skills, and allows them to speak and listen in a range of situations.
- **Physical development**: using interactive programmes, computer mice, keyboards and touch screens helps children develop their coordination, control and movement.
- **Personal, social and emotional development**: technology gives children access to new ways to express their emotions and interact with others.
- **Literacy**: the internet gives children to access a vast range of media and materials.
- **Mathematics**: ICT enhances children's experiences of learning mathematics and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems, and describing shapes, spaces and measure.
- **Understanding the world**: children will be taught to use the internet to enhance their knowledge of people, places, technology and their physical environment.
- **Expressive arts and design**: interactive games, activities and materials will be used to encourage children to share their creativity and ideas.

The Online Safety Policy will be adhered to at all times. This includes installing internet filters and antivirus software on all devices and ensuring children are supervised appropriately when using the internet. In the event of children accessing inappropriate content online, safeguarding procedures will be followed in accordance with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

## 11. Health and safety

The school will promote the good health of children in the EYFS, including the promotion of good oral health.

The EYFS lead will report any accident or injury involving a child to their parents on the day it occurs, and any first-aid treatment administered to a child will also be reported to their parents. Accidents and injuries will be recorded in an accident book, located in the EYFS kitchen area. The headteacher will report any serious accident, illness, injury, or death of a child whilst in the school's care to Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practicable, but within 14 days of the incident occurring. Local child protection agencies will also be notified.

A first-aid box is located the EYFS kitchen area.

Only medicine prescribed to a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist will be administered. The school's Administering Medication Policy outlines the procedures for administrating medicines.

Any food or drink provided to children is healthy, balanced and nutritious. The headteacher will notify Ofsted of any incidents of food poisoning affecting two or more children within 14 days of the incident. Information about any dietary requirements, preferences, food allergies and any special health requirements a child has will be recorded. Fresh drinking water is available at all times.

Smoking is not permitted on the school premises.

The Health and Safety Policy outlines the full health and safety policies and procedures.

The school has a Fire Safety Policy in place.

## 12. Staff taking medication or other substances

The school implements a zero-tolerance approach to drugs and alcohol misuse, as outlined in the Staff Drug and Alcohol Policy.

The use of alcohol or any other substance that may affect the ability to care for children by a member of staff will not be tolerated. If there is a reason to believe a member of staff is under the influence of alcohol or any other substance, they will not be allowed to work directly with children and further action will be taken.

Any member of staff taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children will seek medical advice. Staff will only be allowed to work directly with the children if it is confirmed that the medication is unlikely to impair their ability to look after children properly.

Any medication used by staff is securely stored in locked staff cupboards within each classroom.

## 13. Staffing

A robust Safer Recruitment Policy is in place, which aims to ensure that members of staff employed in the EYFS are suitable.

Upon employment, all EYFS staff receive induction training to ensure that they understand their roles and responsibilities, including information about emergency evacuation procedures, safeguarding, child protection and health and safety.

Staff will be supported to undertake the appropriate training and professional development to ensure children receive the best quality learning experience.

All members of staff who have contact with children and families will be supervised by the EYFS lead. The supervision will provide opportunities for staff to:

- Discuss any issues, particularly concerning the development or wellbeing of children, including any child protection concerns.
- Identify solutions to address issues.
- Receive coaching to improve their effectiveness.

The EYFS lead holds full QTS alongside at least two years' experience working in an early years setting. At least half of the other EYFS staff hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification.

There will be at least one member of staff who has a current paediatric first-aid (PFA) certificate on the school premises at all times, and will accompany children on any school outings.

The school will organise PFA training to be renewed every three years. The list of staff who hold PFA certificates can be found on posters around the school.

The school provides a staffing ratio in line with the safeguarding and welfare requirements set out in the 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'. Only members of staff with level 2 English and maths qualifications will count towards the staffing ratios at level 3.

The school adopts the following staffing ratios:

- For children aged three and over:
    - Where a staff member with qualified teacher status (QTS), early years professional status, or another suitable level 6 qualification is working directly with the children, there is one member of staff for every 13 children, and at least one other member of staff holds a full and relevant level 3 qualification.

- Where a staff member with qualified teacher status (QTS), early years professional status, or another suitable level 6 qualification is not working directly with the children, there is one member of staff for every 8 children, and at least one other member of staff holds a full and relevant level 3 qualification.

- For children in Reception classes:
  - Class sizes will be limited to 30 children per school teacher.

Only under exceptional circumstances, and where the quality of care and safety of children is maintained, will changes be made to the ratios.

## 14. Information and records

Information is stored in line with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, and with regard to the school's Data Protection Policy.

The following information is recorded for each child:

- The child's name and date of birth
- The name and address of every parent or carer who is known to the school, including information about all persons who have parental responsibility for the child and which parent or carer the child normally lives with
- The emergency contact details of the child's parent or carer

The following information about the school is recorded:

- The school's name, address and telephone number
- The school's certificate of registration
- The name, address and telephone number of anyone who will regularly be in unsupervised contact with the children
- A daily record of the names of the children being cared for in the school, their hours of attendance, and the names of each child's key person

The following information is made available to parents:

- The school's privacy notice for parents and children
- How the school delivers the EYFS and how parents can access more information

- The daily routine and the activities offered in the school's EYFS and how parents can assist their child's learning at home
- How the school's EYFS supports children with SEND
- Details of the food and drink provided to the children
- Details of the policies and procedures in place in the school's EYFS
- Staffing details, including the name of their child's key person and their role and a telephone number for parents to contact in an emergency

Ofsted will be notified if there are any changes to the following:

- The address of the school
- The school's contact details
- The hours during which care is provided
- Any significant event which is likely to affect the suitability of the school or any person who cares for, or is in regular contact with, children to look after children

## 15. Parental involvement

We firmly believe that the EYFS cannot function without the enduring support of parents.

Parents are invited to termly parents' evenings; however, the school has an open-door policy and parents are welcome to talk to teachers at the start and end of the school day. The conservatory can be utilised for confidential discussions between staff and parents, during the school day.

Parents are asked to sign permission slips for any visits out of school, use of photographs of their child and using the internet at school.

Parents are asked to complete admission forms, a medical form and to complete an all about my child booklet to help the school to understand their character and personality.

Throughout the year a range of meetings and workshops are planned to engage parents with school and to help them in supporting their child's learning at home.

## 16. Transition periods

The following process is in place to ensure children's successful transition to Year 1:

- Parents are invited to a meeting to ensure they know about school procedures and allocation of classes, and to voice any concerns they may wish to express.

- Children complete an all about me activity at home to share with their new teachers. This will inform initial planning.
- The children are invited to a number of visits throughout the summer term to their Year 1 class with their current teacher, allowing the children to feel secure in the new environment. In Summer 2, the children visit at least once without the support of the Early Years practitioners or parents.
- In the Summer term, Reception and Year 1 staff will meet to discuss each child's development in order to support a smooth transition to Year 1.
- In the Autumn Term of Year 1, children will have an evolving timetable to ensure that there is a suitable transition from Early Years practice to Year 1 learning. As part of this children will still have child initiated time and will have access to continuous provision within their learning environment to support this.

## 17. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the EYFS lead and shared with governing board and the headteacher for approval.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.

All members of staff directly involved with the EYFS are required to familiarise themselves with all processes and procedures outlined in this policy as part of their induction.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is **June 2027.**