



Evelyn Street Primary School

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Executive Principal:
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Policy Title	Early years Policy
School/WBC	School
This policy complies with Warrington LA guidance	Yes
Linked Polices:	This policy should be read in conjunction with DFE Statutory guidance for Executive Principal, staff and local governing bodies :
Written By	School
Staff Approval Date	February 2020
FGB Ratification Date	
Signed by Chair of Governors	Mr N Spencer
Review Date	February 2022

Introduction:

Evelyn Street Primary School *'is an aspirational school with high standards of behaviour and achievement. All our children are encouraged to do their very best in a caring and supportive environment where they feel valued, are happy and secure.*

We create opportunities to develop independence, confidence and collaboration, recognising that everyone has their own talents which we work together to develop' (Mrs Hindley-Head Teacher's School Website Welcome letter)

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of the Reception year, the academic year in which they are five years old. At Evelyn Street Primary School, children are able to join the nursery class the term after their second birthday or the term after their third birthday.

As children move through Early Years at Evelyn Street we want our pupils to be confident, resilient, empathetic, joyful and communicative learners. We are committed to ensuring every child is engaged in meaningful learning experiences that create a thirst for learning which is lifelong.

Article 28: *Your right to learn and go to school*

Article 31: *Your right to relax and play* (UNCRC- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)

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 important in its own right. 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. (Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2017)

The EYFS Framework is based upon four overarching principles:

▪ **A Unique Child** ▪ **Positive Relationships** ▪ **Enabling Environments** ▪ **Learning & Development**

In our Nursery and Reception classes at Evelyn Street Primary School we aim to provide the following for all children:

- A nurturing, secure and friendly atmosphere to develop independence, emotional well-being and a motivation to learn;
- A happy, positive and fun start to their school life in which they can establish solid foundations, fostering a deep love of learning;
- A wide range of new and exciting experiences, giving them the opportunity to build upon and extend their interests and knowledge;
- Encouragement and high expectations to develop to the full, socially, physically, intellectually and emotionally;
- A structure for learning and a curriculum that has a range of starting points and unlimited opportunities for development, responding to varying developmental needs and learning styles;
- Partnership working with home and external agencies to support and enhance learning opportunities to the full, and
- Guidance to recognise their own strengths and achievements through experiencing success and developing the confidence to work towards personal goals.

The Curriculum:

The Nursery and Reception follow the curriculum as outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is available from www.gov.uk

The EYFS Framework includes seven areas of learning and development, all of which are seen as important and interconnected. The first three areas of learning, The **Prime Areas**, are seen as being particularly important for igniting children's curiosity for learning, and for building their capacity, to learn, form relationships and thrive, these are:

- + **Communication and Language:** Listening & Attention / Understanding / Speaking
- + **Physical Development:** Moving & Handling / Health and Self-Care
- + **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** Making Relationships / Making Feelings & Behaviour / Self Confidence & Self Awareness

The **Specific Areas** of Learning, develop essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society, these are:

- + **Literacy:** Reading / Writing
- + **Mathematics:** Number / Shape, Space & Measure
- + **Understanding the World:** People & Communities / The World / Technology
- + **Expressive Arts & Design:** Exploring Media and Materials / Being Imaginative

The EYFS Framework also includes the **Characteristics of Effective Learning**, identifying the way young children learn, interacting with others and their environment. These underpin learning and development across all areas and support the child to remain an effective and motivated learner, these are:

- + **Playing and Exploring:** Finding out and exploring / Playing with what they know / Being willing to 'have a go'
- + **Active Learning:** Being involved and concentrating / Keeping trying / Enjoying achieving what they set out to do
- + **Creating and Thinking Critically:** Having their own ideas / Making links / Choosing ways to do things

Effective Teaching and Learning:

'Each area of learning must be implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity.' (Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2017)

Through significant investment we have created welcoming, attractive and stimulating learning environments, facilitating early year's pedagogy. Defined indoor workshop areas and outdoor learning zones, provide children with a choice of resources enabling them to practise, consolidate and apply key skills. Provision has been carefully planned to ensure it is progressive across the phase, meeting the learning needs of all children. Our provision is an on-going development as we seek to ensure it remains of the highest quality and meets and challenges the learning needs of changing cohorts.

Across the daily routine, practitioners ensure children have a balance of child-initiated and adult-led activities. It is recognised that young children learn by taking part in activities led by knowledgeable adults and leading their own learning. During the summer term in Reception, the balance of learning is developed to support the transition into Y1.

A long term curriculum plan has been developed across the phase to ensure a progressive and sequenced curriculum is in place. Through a robust observation and assessment cycle, activities are carefully planned to ensure on-going progress for all children, enabling them to meet at least 'expected' levels across all areas of learning.

We recognise that children learn to be strong and independent from secure relationships. The role of the Key Person is securely in place. Practitioners are knowledgeable, supporting children in their adult-led and child-initiated learning.

All children in EYFS have access to enrichment activities, termly school visits and after school clubs.

As a school we also benefit from a SSTEWS (Sustained Shared Thinking & Emotional Well-being) Scale trained member of staff. This enables our school to measure, reflect and action plan (in response to 5 areas of practice within which there are 14 items). The SSTEWS Scale gives a detailed and ongoing observation tool for assessing practice.

Inclusion/Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

All children are treated as individuals and have equal access to all provisions available. They are encouraged to achieve their personal best and planning is adapted to meet the needs of all groups and abilities. Assessments take into account contributions from a range of perspectives to ensure that any child with potential Special Educational Needs and Disability is identified at the earliest possible opportunity. Early identification of special needs is crucial to enable staff to support the development of each child. Concerns are always discussed with parents/carers at an early stage and the schools SENDCo is called upon for further information and advice. Appropriate steps are taken in accordance with the school's Inclusion policy for SEND.

Partnership Working

We recognise that parents and carers are a child's first and most enduring educators and we value the contribution they make. We recognise the role that parents and carers have played, and their future role, in educating their children. We endeavour to ensure there is excellent lines of communication between ourselves and home-

Parents and carers are kept informed of their child's learning in a variety of ways, including

- 🚦 Our on-line learning journey, Tapestry
- 🚦 Weekly Friendly Letters (Nursery), Home Learning Letters and Daily Planners (Reception)
- 🚦 Parents Evenings & Open Evenings
- 🚦 Phonics/Reading & Mathematics Workshops
- 🚦 Informal conversations at the start/end of each day.
- 🚦 Noticeboards

Prior to starting school there is an Open Evening in the Autumn Term for families prior to application (Dates available on the School website). This is followed by a detailed transition model that has been carefully developed to ensure a timely yet supportive programme. This has proven very successful for all children. These events introduce all staff to the parent/carer(s) and the child, and enables staff to gather and share detailed information to support a successful transition. Children attend sessions prior to the summer break to enable them to become familiar with their new learning environment.

Children in Evelyn Street Reception and Nursery classes are expected to wear uniform. This is detailed on the school website and is important to ensure children can fully access our physical curriculum and environment. We request children do not wear earrings.

Staff across EYFS work closely with internal specialist staff and integrated services to support next steps in learning for identified children. Our school has very high expectations of behaviour and a zero tolerance approach to aggressive play and language.

Through the year, home learning is supported through regular workshops. During the summer term, transition processes are then securely in place for all children as they continue their learning journey into Key Stage 1.