



Create Learning Trust

Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

“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 and develop.”

EYFS Statutory Framework March 2021

At Create Learning Trust, we create success together.

Our Common Principles

At Create Learning Trust, our practices are guided by the Early Years Statutory Framework 2021 which sets out clear expectations for children’s learning, development and their welfare.

- **A unique child**
- **Positive relationships**
- **Enabling environments**
- **Learning and development**

A Unique Child

Children develop rapidly during their early years - physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. They will come to school having experienced a wide range of pre-school provision that may include nursery, playgroup, childminder and, of course, home. We aim to provide an Early Years’ education that supports and extends the knowledge, understanding, skills and confidence that the children have already gained from their pre-school experiences.

At Create Learning Trust we:

- provide a safe, caring and enabling environment in which children can learn how to work, play and cooperate with others;
- help children develop their self-esteem and a sense of identity, positive attitudes to learning, self-motivation and independence;
- help children to develop an awareness of the needs of others and an understanding of what is right and what is wrong;
- recognise that children develop in individual ways, at varying rates;
- use praise and encouragement to support children in developing a positive attitude to learning.

Equal Opportunities

All children in the EYFS have access to a broad, rich, topic-based curriculum both indoors and outdoors. Activities are carefully planned to appeal to all children, irrespective of gender and ethnicity. We ensure that all children have access to the curriculum.

Ongoing assessments provide opportunities to identify any special educational needs that a child may have. A significant lack of progress will trigger concern and monitoring of that child. Concerns will be discussed with parents and with the SENDCo. Advice will be sought from other agencies where appropriate. All children in the EYFS are given the opportunity to achieve their best; the range of life experiences and abilities is taken into account when planning the learning.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

Create Learning Trust schools have due regard to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (Updated April 2020).

Positive Relationships

At Create Learning Trust, we develop caring, respectful, professional relationships with the children and their families.

Transition

An effective transition is essential to starting a positive relationship with the child and their family and to secure a positive start into primary school life.

Therefore, we implement the following practices:

- The families who have accepted a place are contacted as soon as notification is received.
- The parents are invited to attend an information meeting where they meet the Reception staff and receive relevant documentation.
- The families who are new to the school are visited in their own home by the Reception staff.
- The Early Years teacher will communicate with the previous settings.
- The children are invited to attend on-site visits to familiarise themselves with their new environment.
- Everything is done to ensure the children feel safe, secure and happy.

Enabling Environments

The Early Years classrooms are organised to allow children to explore and learn safely and securely. Play forms the basis of learning and it is through play that children are able to:

- explore and develop learning experiences which help them make sense of the world;
- practise taught skills;
- learn how to control themselves and understand the need for rules;
- communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems;
- express their fears and overcome difficulties;
- challenge themselves through weekly rainbow challenges.

Outdoor play is a very important part of children's development. In our Foundation Stage, the outdoor play space is securely fenced and provides a safe play space where children can develop their physical skills and learn to share with others in structured and informal play. Across the Foundation Stage we encourage free flow between the classrooms and outdoor area. Activities set up outside support all areas of learning.

Health and Safety

All precautions are taken to ensure the health and well-being of the children in the reception class. A paediatric trained first aider is assigned to the class. Staff make sure that equipment used and activities planned are safe

and conform to current health and safety regulations. All educational visits will have a risk assessment carried out and recorded prior to the visit.

Learning and Development

At Little Leigh Primary School, we provide a broad and balanced curriculum based on the seven areas of learning:

Prime areas of learning:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development
- Communication and Language

Specific areas of learning:

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

We provide rich and varied experiences which support the **three characteristics of effective learning**. These are as follows:

- **Playing and exploring** – children investigate and experience things and ‘have a go’.
- **Active learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy achievements.
- **Creating and thinking critically** – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things.

Educational Programmes (Curriculum)

The **prime areas of learning** will involve the following opportunities:

- **Communication and Language** development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment: to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations.
- **Physical development** involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive, developing their co-ordination, control and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices.
- **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.

The **specific areas of learning** will involve the following opportunities:

- **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 and writing materials to develop their interest. EYFS staff teach children to read systematically by using synthetic phonics and books that match the children’s phonic knowledge. EYFS staff constantly observe what is popular amongst the children in Early Years and activities are planned accordingly.
- **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.
- **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.

- **Expressive arts and design** involves 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.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

On entry to school, children will access the statutory baseline assessment checks within the first six weeks. There will be a further two opportunities to make judgements against the seven areas to support parents' and staff's understanding of next steps (December and June).

Assessment plays an important part in helping practitioners and parents to understand the progress children are making. Many of our assessments happen throughout day to day teaching and recognise the children's interests to reshape future planning.

We use either Tapestry or Learning Book to record any observations and parents are encouraged to add to the children's profile in this way.

The use of Twitter keeps everyone informed of learning experiences during the week.

A written report is sent to parents at the end of their time in Reception, reporting achievement and progress across the seven areas of learning.

Teaching and Learning

Features of high quality teaching and learning in the EYFS include:

- An effective partnership between teachers and parents
- A clear understanding of how children develop and learn
- Clear aims and objectives
- Regular monitoring and evaluation of practice to secure continued progress
- A range of teaching approaches and styles
- A carefully planned curriculum that helps children achieve the Early Learning Goals
- The provision for children to take part in activities that build on and extend their interests and develop their intellectual, physical, social and emotional skills
- The encouragement for children to develop their independence and self-management
- Appropriate and accessible indoor and outdoor spaces, facilities and equipment
- High quality ongoing assessment which identifies the attainment, progress and future learning needs of the children
- Continuing professional development of all adults working within the Foundation Stage

Policy agreed with Governors: June 2021