

East Brent C of E Academy



Early Years Policy

September 2023

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of their reception year. East Brent C of E Academy and Pre-School take children in early years from the ages of 2 to 5 years when the children then move on to the National Curriculum within the school.

Aims

At East Brent C of E Academy and Pre-School we aim to provide a high quality of education for all children and we strive to give them a solid foundation for the future. We encourage the children within our setting to be independent and lifelong learners. We set high expectations which help to support the children to develop socially, physically, intellectually, and emotionally so that they can reach their full potential. All our staff work together to ensure that children are kept safe and healthy.

Curriculum

At East Brent we adhere to the Statutory Framework for the early years foundation stage.

The staff at East Brent C of E Academy and Pre-School have worked closely together to develop our own curriculum based on the development matters 2020. Our curriculum ensures that we are providing

- The best for every child
- High-quality care
- A progressional curriculum with an understanding of what we want our children to learn
- A wide range of opportunities and experiences to help children to learn
- A good knowledge of assessment and how we can use everyday discussions to check what children have learnt
- A supportive partnership with parents.

We will

- Provide a balanced curriculum, based on the 7 areas of learning within the EYFS
- Promote equality and anti-discriminatory practice
- Provide support and early intervention for those children that need additional support
- Work closely in partnership with parents and external agencies to support our children
- Provide a range of learning opportunities which challenge and stimulate children of all abilities and ages
- Provide a range of opportunities that will include adult-led and child initiated learning
- Provide a secure and safe learning environment both indoors and outdoors

- Provide an exciting and challenging curriculum based on our day-to-day observations and discussions, the children's interests, needs and various stages of development.

Areas of Learning:

The EYFS is made up of three **prime areas** of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

There are four **specific areas of learning**:

- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the world
- Expressive Arts and Design

Teaching

Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play, and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Practitioners respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction.

We will use the indoor and outdoor environment to promote the areas of learning. There is an outdoor canopy to enable children to stay dry and safe in extreme weather conditions. The outside area has an all-weather soft surface, gardens, an outdoor covered area for sand, water, drawing activities or board games. Children are encouraged to use resources from the classroom or storage areas to develop their play. The Reception class is supported by an Higher level Teaching Assistant. As children grow older, and as their development allows, the balance gradually shifts towards more adult-led activities to help children prepare for more formal learning, ready for year 1.

Inclusion

All children will receive quality first teaching daily and activities will be differentiated accordingly. In addition to this where children have been identified as children who require support a specific need intervention programmes will be implemented. Staff will liaise with the SENDCO, parents and external agencies. Children with English as an additional language will be supported with carefully planned activities.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

- Ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning and development process.
- Daily practice will include observations and interaction of children's development and progress. These observations will be used to carefully plan the children's next steps.
- Discussions will be held with all adults in the EYFS as well as with parents about individual children's development and next steps
- Parent consultations will take place twice a year,
- Significant moments of children's achievements (Wow moments!) will be shared with parents on Tapestry, our online learning journal. Parents will also be provided with the opportunity to share their wow moments with their child from home.

- When a child is between 2 and 3 years of age, practitioners will complete a two year old check. This reviews the child's progress and provides parents/carers with a written summary of the child's development and progress in the 3 prime areas. This progress check highlights the areas that the child is doing well in as well as providing next steps and additional support. Parents are encouraged to share this check with other external agencies that are involved with the child.#
- Children transferring from Pre-School to School will receive an end of year report.
- At the end of the Reception year, staff will complete the foundation stage profile on all 17 areas of learning. Children will be assessed as expected or emerging towards the expected level of development. A report will be given to parents/carers which shows their child's development in all areas of the Early Learning goals

Transitions and inductions

At East Brent, we have an induction process which supports children starting the setting at both Pre-School and Reception years.

At Pre-School we have a carefully planned induction which incorporates meeting with parents to discuss their child's interests, likes, dislikes and routines, time for the children to attend with the parents/carers and then a short session where they will be invited to attend independently. Following this independent session, there is a careful conversation with parents about whether they feel their child is ready to start Pre-School. The induction can be lengthened if children need further support in starting the setting.

At East Brent C of E Academy, we are aware of the importance of transition when children move up from the Pre-School to school or join us from a different setting. We have a clear set of procedures for transitions which supports both the children and parents.

Reception staff liaise closely with all Pre-School settings and gather information about the children's development and interests as well as talking to parents. We hold a meet the teacher meeting where parents are invited to the school to find out about the school induction and routines, uniform, expectations as well as meeting people from FOEBS and the Governing body. Parents are provided with a welcome pack which includes consent forms, sample of menus, a guide to your child's first day as well as guidance to the induction timetable.

We offer all the children the opportunity to come for two stay and play sessions with their grownups. This provides a safe environment for the children to explore and meet new friends. We also find that this is a fabulous opportunity for parents to meet each other and to begin to build friendships we can support their child. In July, we then hold a transfer morning which links to the rest of the school where all the children move to their next class to meet their new teacher. In Reception, this means that children can attend the morning without their parents to help develop their independence and confidence.

In September, we run an induction programme which helps the children to settle. This is based on staying for mornings to begin with, then mornings and lunch with one full day and then in full time. If the setting/parents or carers feel that a longer induction is required, then parents and staff will meet to put in a revised induction plan.

Health and Safety and Safeguarding

Children learn best when they feel healthy, safe and secure. The East Brent team work closely to ensure that all the children in Pre-School and reception have their needs met and that they have

positive relationships with the adults and peers around them. Staff have regular training on safeguarding and supporting the welfare of children. This is based on 'Keeping Children in Safe in Education.'

East Brent C of E Academy and Pre-School is a healthy school and provide children with the opportunity for having free milk (until the age of 5) and free fruit. When the children are in reception, we are able to offer them the universal infant free school meals. All children are encouraged to bring in a water bottle and the children have access to water at all times of the day.