



King's Academy College Park

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) policy

Introduction

This policy aims to ensure:

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to fulfill their potential. A child's experience in their early years has a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right and it provides the Early Years for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

Department for Children, Schools and Families 2012

Principles

The EYFS is based upon four principles:

A unique child

We recognise that every child is a competent learner who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. We recognise that children develop in individual ways and at varying rates. Children's attitudes and dispositions to learning are influenced by feedback from others; we use praise and encouragement as well as celebration and rewards to encourage and develop a positive attitude to learning

Our Dragon values underpin the learning skills that children develop throughout their time at King's Academy College Park.



Resilience



Responsibility



Independence



Challenge



Teamwork



Creativity



Kindness

Positive relationships

We recognise that children learn to be strong and independent from secure relationships and aim to develop caring, respectful and professional relationships with the children and their families.

Enabling environments

We recognise that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending the children's development. Through observations and interactions we assess the children's interests, stages of development and learning needs before planning challenging and achievable activities and experiences to extend their learning.



Learning and development

The Early Years is organised to allow children to explore and learn securely and safely. There are areas where the children can be active, be quiet and rest. The classes are set up in learning areas where children are able to find and locate equipment and resources independently.

At King's Academy College Park we greatly value the importance that the EYFS plays in laying secure Early Years for future learning and development. However, we also believe that Early Childhood is valid in itself as part of life. It is important to view EYFS as preparation for life and not simply preparation for the next stage of education. The EYFS for children is from birth to five years of age. All children begin school with a wide variety of experiences and learning and it is the privilege of adults working in the Early Years Stage to accept the task of building upon that prior learning experience. This is done through a holistic approach to learning ensuring that parents and guardians, support staff and the Early Years Team work effectively together to support the learning and development of the children in their charge.

Aims

It is every child's right to grow up safe, healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and with economic well being. The overarching aim of the EYFS is to help young children achieve these five outcomes. We will provide a broad and balanced curriculum that will enable each child to develop personally, socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically, creatively and intellectually to their full potential. Each child is valued as an individual and teaching and learning is based on the understanding that children develop at different rates.

At King's Academy College Park we aim to:

Provide a safe, challenging, stimulating, caring and sharing environment which is sensitive to the needs of the child including children with additional needs.

- Provide a broad, balanced, relevant and creative curriculum that will set in place firm Early Years for further learning and development in Key Stage 1 and beyond.
- Use and value what each child can do, assessing their individual needs and helping each child to progress.
- Enable choice and decision making, fostering independence and self-confidence, irrespective of ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, family background, learning difficulties, disabilities, gender or ability.
- Provide opportunities whereby children experience a challenging and enjoyable programme of learning and development.
- Provide experiences for all children, whatever their needs, which are inclusive rather than parallel.

Legislation

This policy is based on requirements set out in the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) that applies from September 2021](#).

This policy has due regard to statutory legislation, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Childcare Act 2006



- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The GDPR
- Data Protection Act 2018

This policy has due regard to statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2017) 'Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage'
- DfE (2018) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2018) 'Working together to safeguard children'
- DfE (2015) 'The prevent duty' Check dates

This policy is intended to be used in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy
- Administering Medication Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy

Structure of the EYFS

At King's Academy College Park we have 4 classes with around 106 children. We offer wrap around care for before school and after school, we also provide breakfast club for our pupil premium children.

Curriculum

Our Early Years setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the latest version of the EYFS statutory framework that applies from September 2021.

The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. However, 3 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

Planning



Staff plan activities and experiences that enable children to develop and learn effectively. In order to do this, staff working with the youngest children are expected to focus strongly on the 3 prime areas.

Staff also take into account the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child in their care, and use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience. Where a child may have a special educational need or disability, staff consider whether specialist support is required, linking with relevant services from other agencies, where appropriate.

In planning and guiding children's activities, staff reflect on the different ways that children learn and include these in their practice.

- The curriculum is well planned to ensure we identify 'what we want' the children to learn.
- We ensure planning helps every child to develop their language skills.
- The curriculum is ambitious.
- Careful sequencing will help children to build on their learning over time whilst giving them the opportunity to apply prior knowledge.
- Planning is flexible to ensure children's interests are used to drive the children's learning and development.
- We ensure that depth in early learning is achieved through spending time embedding the children's learning.

Teaching

In our classrooms, you may see children playing alone or with their peers, deciding on resources and choosing how to spend their time. You may see a child playing and listening to an adult, who is modeling how to achieve something or teaching a new skill that interests the child.

Adults may scaffold a child's play. This involves taking their play to higher levels of learning, entering the play as a co-creator and helping to provoke a framework for the children to go from "what they know" to "what else they could know". Scaffolding enables a child to solve a problem, carry out a task or achieve a goal which is just beyond his or her abilities. During play, where foundational social and emotional skills are developed, scaffolding is a bridge to new skill levels using three key ingredients; modelling the skill, giving clues and asking questions while the child is trying out a new skill, and then as the child approaches mastery, withdrawing the support.

The EYFS statutory framework does not prescribe a particular teaching approach.

Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.

The EYFS lead and Teachers carefully plan what the children learn in the classroom and enable them to learn from their interests through well thought out provision and enhancements, alongside extending their knowledge and understanding through direct teaching. Each day, we stimulate children's interests, respond to each child's emerging needs and guide their development through warm, positive interactions coupled with secure routines for play and learning.



As the children develop and their skills progress throughout the reception year, we use more direct teaching and modelling and plan specific sequences of lessons. These strategies help us to focus on teaching the essential skills and knowledge in the specific areas of learning so that the children can develop the skills and confidence required for the end of their reception year.

Assessment

At King's Academy College Park, ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning and development processes. Staff observe pupils to identify their level of achievement, interests and learning styles. These observations are used to shape future planning. Staff also take into account observations shared by parents and/or carers.

- Assessments are completed to inform planning and support the practitioners in identifying children who need additional support.
- Assessment is based upon a secure knowledge of child development.
- Practitioners have a clear expectation about what children need to know and how best to support them in developing their learning.
- Accurate assessment is used to highlight whether a child has a special educational need or needs extra help.
- Seesaw is used to record observations on each child. Seesaw is used as a valuable tool to assess children's development and to provide a link for parents/carers.

Within the first 6 weeks that a child **starts reception**, staff will administer the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA). At the end of the Autumn and Spring term the assessments are inputted onto OTrack and PPM's are held with each teacher.

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 ('emerging')

The profile reflects ongoing observations, and discussions with parents and/or carers. The results of the profile are shared with parents and/or carers for their child.

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

Working with parents

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 through Seesaw and parent evenings/drop ins/reports. The EYFS profile helps to provide parents and/or carers with a well-rounded picture of their child's knowledge, understanding and abilities.

Safeguarding and welfare procedures



We promote good oral health, as well as good health in general, in the early years by

- Talking about the effects of eating too many sweet things
- The importance of brushing your teeth

We have supervised tooth brushing at King's Academy College Park which is supported by Portsmouth University Dental Students: We follow statutory guidance for safety around supervised tooth brushing.

The rest of our safeguarding and welfare procedures are outlined in our safeguarding policy.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Headteacher annually.

At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

June 2023

