



BISHOP LONSDALE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

A member of the Derby Diocesan Academy Trust.

*BECOMING **I**NDEPENDENT **S**UCCESSFUL **H**ONEST **O**PEN MINDED **P**EOPLE*

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Policy

Derby Diocesan Academy Trust Policy

Governors Approval

Date: February 2023

Review Date: February 2024



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1.0 Rationale

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for teaching and learning within the Early Years Foundation stage at all Derby Diocesan Academy Trust (DDAT) schools. It is the method through which we offer a curriculum which is broad and balanced with an emphasis on core learning, and its implementation is the responsibility of all the members of the school community.

2.0 Aims

At DDAT our expectations are high of ourselves, each other and our children. We strive to provide the highest quality care and education for all our children thereby giving them a strong foundation for their future learning. We create a safe and happy environment with motivating and enjoyable learning experiences that enable children to become confident and independent. We value the individual child and work alongside parents and others to meet their needs and help every child to reach their full potential.

As outlined in the EYFS '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.'

The following documents should be read in conjunction with this policy: Teaching and Learning, Admissions, Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities; SEN and Behaviour policies. EYFS assessment procedures and schematic.

We adhere to the Statutory Framework of the EYFS and the four guiding principles that shape practice within Early Years settings.

- 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**, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers
- Children **develop and learn in different ways and at different rates**

2.0 Teaching and Learning in Early Years Foundation stage

We believe that all children learn best when they:

- Are interested and motivated
- Achieve success and gain approval
- Are clear about expectations in their work and behaviour
- Are given appropriate tasks
- Are actively involved in the learning process



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- Feel valued, secure and confident
- Are challenged and stimulated
- Receive feedback about their performance

3.0 The Learning Environment

At DDAT Schools this will be organised to ensure that children have the opportunity to:

- Work individually, in pairs, in small groups and as a class
- Make decisions
- Work co-operatively
- Solve problems
- Be creative
- Discuss ideas
- Develop social skills
- Develop independence and use initiative
- Receive support and challenge
- Participate in enrichment
- Contribute to school life

Learning in the Early Years will take place in stimulating learning environments that:

- Provide opportunities for free flow between inside and outside learning areas (when staffing allows)
- Are safe, welcoming, happy and caring
- Are both challenging and supportive
- Celebrate success and support children to realise their full potential
- Encourage mutual respect
- Celebrate our differing religions, heritage and cultures.
- Are well organised, safe, tidy with well-presented displays
- Have resources that are attractive, labelled and accessible
- Are non-partisan in terms of resources and delivery
- Have an agreed code of behaviour 'owned' by the children (Bishop Rules)

4.0 Our Practice in Early Years

As part of our practice we:

- Provide a balanced curriculum, based on the EYFS, across the seven areas of learning, using play as the vehicle for learning
- Promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. We provide early intervention for those children who require additional support
- Work in partnership with parents and within the wider context
- Plan challenging learning experiences, based on the individual child, informed by observation and assessment



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- Provide opportunities for children to engage in activities that are adult-initiated and child-initiated, supported by the adult
- Have a key person approach to develop close relationships with individual children and parents
- Provide a secure and safe learning environment indoors and out

5.0 EYFS Curriculum

We plan an exciting and challenging curriculum based on Assessment for Learning; (see assessment procedures and schematic), with a key focus being our observation of children's needs, interests, and stages of development across the seven areas of learning to enable the children to achieve and exceed the early learning goals.

All the seven areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas are the **prime** areas:

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

Children are also supported through the four **specific** areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The **specific** areas are:

- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

Children are provided with a range of rich, meaningful first-hand experiences in which children explore, think creatively and are active. We aim to develop and foster positive attitudes towards learning, confidence, communication and physical development.

As a team, we write long term and medium term plans using the EYFS based on a series of topics each of which offers experiences in all seven areas. These plans then inform our short-term weekly planning, alongside our observations, which remains flexible for unplanned circumstances or children's responses. All plans are amended and adapted in light of our ongoing observations and assessments.

Children have whole class and small differentiated group times, which develop as they move through EYFS. There are daily dedicated times for the teaching of phonics, maths and stories/songs in Reception and Nursery. There is also a time for Literacy and handwriting in



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Reception. All children in EYFS have a designated PE lesson which takes place in the hall/outside.

The EYFS unit has 5 themed zones of learning; Zone 1 – Literacy based, Zone 2 - C and L/Phonics based, Zone 3 Creative/Messy play Zone 4 – Maths/ Construction based Zone 5 – Outside Learning

The curriculum is delivered using a purposeful play-based approach as outlined by the EYFS. *'Each area of learning and development must be implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities'*

We plan a balance between children having time and space to engage in their own child-initiated activities and those that are planned by the adults. During children's purposeful play, early years practitioners interact to stretch and challenge children further. In planning and guiding children's activities, we reflect as practitioners on the different ways that children learn and reflect these in our practice.

6.0 Observation and Assessment

As part of our daily practice we observe and assess children's development and learning to inform our future plans. We record our observations on tablets using the program Evidence Me. Significant observations of children's achievements are collated in their own personal learning journey. When deemed ready, children move towards having individual books for their learning in the aspects of mathematics and writing. Other evidence is stored in topic folders or as photographs.

Assessment for learning is at the heart of all we do. We want children to be involved and take ownership of their own learning journey. Through effective feedback, discussion and precision teaching, children will be involved with understanding their strengths and what they are doing well and will have a clear understanding of small, manageable next step targets that they can aim towards.

Parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet with the class teacher and key staff to discuss learning and progress in all aspects of the EYFS curriculum at twice yearly Parent's Evenings. They will also receive maths, writing and reading targets, which are also displayed in the EYFS unit as 'Powerful Learner Targets' At the end of the school year parents and carers are provided with an Annual Report and a copy of their child's profile. This report will be based on their child's development against each of the Early Learning Goals and the characteristics of their learning. The parents are then given the opportunity to discuss their child's strengths and areas that they can support with as the child moves from Reception into Year 1.



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7.0 Safety

Children's safety and welfare is paramount. We create a safe and secure environment and provide a curriculum which teaches children how to be safe, make choices and assess risks. We have stringent policies, procedures and documents in place to ensure children's safety.

We promote the good health of the children in our care in numerous ways, including the provision of nutritious food, following set procedures when children become ill or have an accident.

Please see our separate policies and procedures on Health and Safety, Child Protection, Food and Drink; Illness and Injury.

8.0 Inclusion

We value all our children as individuals, irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, background, ability or gender. We plan a curriculum that meet the needs of the individual child and support them at their own pace so that most of our children achieve and even exceed the Early Learning Goals. We strongly believe that early identification of children with additional needs is crucial in enabling us to give the child the support that they need and in doing so, work closely with parents and outside agencies.

Our aims to ensure inclusive provision include:-

- to offer excellence to all our children, whatever their abilities or needs
- high expectations of all our children
- to achieve high standards by striving to remove barriers to learning and participation
- to ensure that all our children feel they are a valued part of the school community

Through appropriate curriculum provision, we respect the fact that children:

- have different educational and behavioural needs and aspirations
- have different strategies for learning
- have different rates of acquiring, assimilating and communicating information
- need of a range of different teaching approaches and experiences

Teachers respond to children's needs by:

- providing support for children who need help with language, communication and literacy
- planning to develop children's understanding through the use of all their senses and experiences
- planning for children's full participation and learning in physical and practical activities
- helping children to manage their behaviour and to take part in learning effectively and safely
- helping individuals manage their emotions and to take part in learning



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9.0 Transition

Transition into the next Key stage is carefully planned for and time given to ensure continuity of learning. At any period of transition, we acknowledge the child's needs and establish effective partnerships with those involved with the child and other settings, including nurseries and child minders. All children and their families attend Nursery visits when they join their school in the Early Years. In addition, they attend an introductory session to Reception to develop familiarity with the setting and practitioners.

In the final term in Reception, the Year 1 teacher will meet with the Early Years staff and discuss each child's development against the Early Learning Goals in order to support a smooth transition to Year 1. This discussion helps the Year 1 teacher to plan an effective, responsive and appropriate curriculum that will meet the needs of all children. Children will also begin to spend time within the Year 1 setting, prior to completing a transition day.

10.0 Parents as Partners and the Wider context

We strive to create and maintain partnership with parents and carers as we recognise that together, we can have a significant impact on a child's learning. We welcome and actively encourage parents to participate confidently in their child's education and care in numerous ways, e.g. specialist learning days e.g. Sports Day, open days and evenings, parent workshops, parent communication board.

We ask that every parent:-

- Ensures their children attend regularly and punctually
- Supports the ethos of the school and the class charters
- Shares responsibility for their children's learning, be realistic and offer encouragement and praise
- Attends parent's evenings
- Support the children including in terms of reading and homework which may be set
- Encourage independence in their children
- Communicate with staff any concerns about their children
- Respect other members of the school community

Working with other services and organisations is integral to our practice in order to meet the needs of our children. At times we may need to share information with other professionals to provide the best support possible.

We draw on our links with the community to enrich children's experiences by taking them on outings and inviting members of the community into our setting, for example during Work Week.



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11.0 Staff responsibilities

- Place Assessment for Learning (AfL) at the heart of all we do
- Ensure there are clear objectives and success criteria that are shared and which the children understand
- Provide feedback which informs the next steps in their learning and so impacts on progress
- Involve children in the assessment process using a range of AfL strategies
- Give pupils opportunities to reflect on their learning through target setting
- Plan lessons which have pace and structure
- Provide a working environment where expectations are high
- Provide appropriate resources and support materials
- Continue to widen their subject knowledge and developments in education
- Use a range of teaching styles, differentiation and groupings to enable all pupils to learn effectively
- Keep effective assessments and accurate records which inform planning
- Communicating with parents and keeping them informed of children's progress

12.0 Pupils' responsibilities

- Adhere to their own class rules for effective learning
- Respect other children, be considerate and thoughtful
- Respect the school environment and equipment
- Be punctual and organised with appropriate kit
- Be respectful to all staff and visitors
- Be positive and eager to make use of all opportunities
- Have pride in their work, their class and Bishop Lonsdale School
- Take responsibility for their learning

13.0 Governors' responsibilities

- Work in partnership with staff, pupils and parents to support the aims and objectives of the school
- Support initiatives for pupils and parents
- Be accessible to parents and staff
- Take responsibility for own training and development
- Carry out monitoring and support staff where appropriate

14.0 Organisation

As a Primary phase Trust our expectation is that all teachers teach the full range of curriculum subjects. Nevertheless we recognise that there are specialist teachers within our staff and that some subjects will be taught by a specialist teacher e.g. music, sports and MfL.



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9.0 Celebrating Achievement

Social, physical, creative and academic achievements are celebrated in many ways as an ongoing process in all aspects of school life, by;

- Verbal or written praise by teachers, peers, head and parents
- Displays of learning
- Going for Green assembly
- Opportunities to perform or share
- Encouraging self-esteem
- Rewards within our Behaviour Policy
- Sharing success with the community

10.0 Strategies for ensuring progression and continuity

Planning

- Two year cycle to deliver the full coverage of a balanced curriculum with a focus on core learning and to modify and update this as required by changing circumstances
- Schemes of work developed and reviewed
- Medium term plans and weekly/daily plan drawn up by teachers
- Staff meetings to discuss curriculum developments and initiatives
- Monitoring of progress by SLT

Feedback and marking, assessment and record keeping

- Ensure continuity by using methods of marking set out in the marking policy
- Regular records of assessments in day-to-day achievements based on lessons objectives and success criteria
- Reading records –tickets/diaries
- Foundation Stage – observations, evidence

11.0 Equal Opportunities

We will ensure that all children have the opportunity to progress regardless of gender, race, first language, physical or intellectual ability. Expectations are high and we will support but never limit pupils' achievements. Assessments will not involve cultural, social, linguistic or gender bias.

12.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Trust



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13.0 Approval by school and Review Date

This policy has been formally approved and adopted by the school at a formally convened meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____