

# Grayshott C of E Primary School

## Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

### Statutory Policy

Approved in Curriculum Committee: Autumn 15

Ratified at FGB: Autumn 15



#### Linked documents:

- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Marking and Feedback Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- SEN and Equal Opportunities Policy

**Review Date: Autumn I 2016**  
**Governor Responsible: AF**

# Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

## Grayshott C of E Controlled Primary School

This policy reflects our Christian ethos and our commitment to Every Child Matters.

### **Introduction**

*“Every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to fulfil their potential. A child’s experience in the 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 foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.”*

- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile  
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.

**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 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.** EYFS 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. Red Class is set up in learning areas where children are able to find and locate equipment and resources independently. Early childhood is the foundation on which children build the rest of their lives. At Grayshott CE Primary School we greatly value the importance that the EYFS plays in laying secure foundations for future learning and development. It is important to view the 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 the adults working in the EYFS to accept the task of building upon that prior learning experience. This is done through a holistic approach to learning, ensuring that all adults, at home and school, 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 wellbeing. 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 Grayshott CE Primary School, 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 foundations 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.
- Work in partnership with parents and carers and value their contributions ensuring that all children flourish.
- 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.

## **Learning and Development**

Learning and development is categorised into three prime areas of learning:

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

Additionally there are four specific areas of learning:

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

Underpinning achievement in these prime and specific areas of learning are the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning':

- Playing and Exploring
- Active Learning
- Creating and Thinking Critically

## **Observation, Assessment and Planning**

Good planning is the key to making children's learning effective, exciting, varied and progressive. Effective learning builds on and extends what children know and can already do. Our planning shows how the principles of the EYFS are put into practice and is always informed by observations we have made of the children, in order to understand and consider their current interests, development and learning needs. All staff who work in the EYFS are involved in this process.

The planning within the EYFS is based around the children's interests. These plans are used by the EYFS team as a guide for weekly planning. However, we may alter these in response to the needs of the children. We make regular assessments of children's learning and we use this information to ensure that future planning reflects identified needs.

Assessment in the EYFS takes the form of observations and this involves the teacher and other adults as appropriate. At the end of the third term, we provide a written summary in relation to the children's early learning goals to parents and guardians.

### **Learning Through Play**

At Grayshott CE Primary School, we do not make a distinction between work and play. Children learn through planned play activities and staff will decide when child-initiated or adult-led play activities would provide the most effective learning opportunities.

### **Induction Process**

During the Summer Term prior to starting school the following September the following visits are conducted:

- EYFS staff will visit pre-school settings from which September's intake will be taken.
- Each child and their parents and carers will be invited to spend some time in Red Class in order to familiarise themselves with both the staff and the EYFS environment.

When children join the school in September the following procedures will apply in order that they can gradually adjust to their new surroundings:

- Where possible, during the first week of term, EYFS staff will visit each child in their home environment.
- During the second week, children will attend for the morning session only.
- From the third week, children will attend for the full school day unless EYFS staff and parents or guardians agree that it is not in the best interests of an individual child.

### **Home and School Links**

We recognise that parents and carers are a child's first and most enduring educators and we aim for the schools and parents and carers to work closely in EYFS. This can have a very positive impact on a child's development but relies on a two-way flow of information and knowledge.

We will develop this working relationship between the school and parents and carers as follows:

- We will hold a parent consultation early in the year to establish how a child is settling into the school environment.
- We will publish a theme topic leaflet detailing the areas of learning and the overarching theme of the term or half-term.
- We will operate an open door policy that will allow parents and carers to discuss concerns and developments in an informal manner. Conversely, if EYFS staff have concerns about the progress of a child, they will immediately approach parents and carers to discuss them.
- We will conduct workshops for parents and carers to enable them to be familiar with the teaching methods used in school to make it easier to emulate them at home.
- There will be opportunities for parents and carers to visit the school on a volunteer basis to assist with the children's learning.
- Parents and carers are given the opportunity to meet with the EYFS team through informal 'stay and play' sessions throughout the year as well as formal parents' evenings each term.