



Kilburn
Grange School
LEARN ENJOY SUCCEED

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Policy

This policy applies all pupils in the school, including in the EYFS

Signed:	
Chair of Trust Board:	Claire Delaney
Approved:	1 September 2016
Renewal period	Annually
Review Date:	1 September 2018

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EYFS Policy

Aims of the curriculum:

All pupils should be given the opportunity to experience the very best possible start to their education. At Kilburn Grange School, we are committed to providing a high quality early years' education which gives pupils a secure and confident start to their school life and nurtures a life-long love of learning. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to pupils from birth to the end of the Reception year. In our school, the EYFS applies to pupils attending Reception.

We are fully committed to the purpose and aims of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation (2014) that clearly states (page 6):

'Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Pupils 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 pupils need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.'

Objectives of the curriculum:

Our Early Years Foundation Stage aims to:

- Provide a happy, caring, secure and stimulating environment for all pupils;
- Encourage confidence, independence and a desire to learn;
- Focus on the development of every child as an individual, valuing and building on their previous experiences and responding to their individual needs;
- Work in partnership with parents and carers;
- Develop in pupils an enquiring mind and an enthusiasm for learning;
- Provide strong foundations for later learning;
- Develop pupil's understanding of social skills, values and codes of behaviour necessary for life.

EYFS Principles

The statutory framework is based on four guiding principles and these themes help shape the Early Years Foundation Stage Policy:

- A Unique Child
- Positive relationships
- Enabling Environments
- Pupils Learn in Different Ways and at Different Rates (Learning and Development)

A Unique Child

At Kilburn Grange School, we recognise that every child is a competent learner who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. We recognise that pupils develop in individual ways, at varying rates and set high expectations for all pupils.

Inclusion

We value the diversity of individuals within the school and do not discriminate against pupils because of 'differences'. All pupils are treated fairly regardless of race, religion, gender, nationality, culture, abilities

or social circumstances. All pupils and their families are valued within our school.

In our Reception classes, we believe that all our pupils matter. We give our pupils every opportunity to achieve their best. We do this by taking account of our pupil's range of life experiences, interests, needs and stages of development when planning for their learning. We meet the needs of all our pupils through:

- Planning opportunities that build upon and extend pupil's knowledge, experience and interests, and develop their values;
- Using a wide range of teaching strategies based on pupil's learning needs;
- Differentiating for all pupil's needs to ensure progression in their learning and development;
- Providing a wide range of opportunities to motivate and support pupils and to help them to learn effectively;
- Providing a safe and supportive learning environment in which the contribution of all pupils is valued;
- Using resources which reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping;
- Ensuring all learning opportunities, experiences and resources are inclusive and enable pupils to learn together;
- Monitoring pupil's progress and taking action to provide support as necessary;
- Working closely with parents/carers, other professional adults such as speech therapists and specialist teachers as part of the learning process.

Our SEND Policy provides more information about how we meet the needs of all the pupils including pupils with SEND.

Positive Relationships

We recognise that pupils learn to be strong and independent from secure relationships. Positive relationships are a vital part of motivating learning. We aim to develop caring, respectful, trusting and professional relationships with the pupils and their families.

Parents as Partners

At Kilburn Grange School, we recognise the importance of establishing positive relationships with parents, as highlighted by the EYFS Framework. We understand that an effective partnership between school and home will have a positive impact on pupils' learning and development.

Parents and carers are pupil's first and foremost enduring educators and we are committed to working in close partnership with them in order to enable each child to achieve his/her potential. Young pupils are eager learners and all adults have an important role in sustaining that eagerness. We highly value the contribution that parents and carers make and seek to maintain an effective partnership between home and school by:

- Demonstrating that we value and respect the role of the parents/carers as the first educators by listening to accounts of their child's development and any concerns and aspirations they have;
- Providing opportunities for regular conversations, discussions, meetings and chats with parents and carers about their child;
- Ensuring that parents and carers are provided with detailed information prior to admissions enabling them to feel confident about the transition process;
- Visiting all EYFS pupils in their home setting prior to their starting school to allow practitioners and parents to discuss pupil's circumstances, interests, skills and needs and for pupils to meet their teacher/key worker;
- Inviting all EYFS parents to an induction meeting during the term before their child starts school;

- Pupils having an opportunity to spend time with their new teachers during ‘Moving Up Days’;
- Demonstrating that we value linguistic diversity and provide opportunities for pupils to develop and use their home language in play and learning;
- Welcoming parents and carers into the classroom to share their expertise and enrich the learning opportunities provided;
- Ensuring parents and carers are kept well informed about the curriculum and school life via parents notice boards, letters, leaflets, home learning record and school website;
- Offering parents regular opportunities to talk about their child’s progress and allowing access to their child’s ‘Learning Journey’ and exercise books;
- Providing opportunities for parents to add comments and observations relating to their child’s achievements in their child’s Home Learning Record;
- Arranging a range of activities throughout the year that encourage collaboration between pupils, school and parents/carers, e.g. sports day, trips, themed activity days, class assemblies etc.;
- Other partnerships including coffee mornings, Come Dine With Me Lunch sessions, workshops etc.;
- Sharing information regarding a child’s progress and achievements and how parents and carers can support the next stage of learning through workshops, formal meetings, leaflets and reports.

All staff involved in the EYFS aim to develop good relationships with pupils, interacting positively with them and taking the time to listen to them. At Kilburn Grange School, we have a key worker system where each child is assigned a key person from one of our teachers or teaching assistants. A key working approach provides the child with a special adult to enable him/her to develop a secure attachment, the opportunity for the practitioner to develop a supportive relationship with the parents/carers as well as helping to track and share the child’s progress and development through their ‘Learning Journey’, ensuring that every child’s learning is tailored to meet their individual needs.

Enabling Environments

We recognise that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending the pupil’s development. This begins by observing the pupils and assessing their interests, development and learning, before planning challenging but achievable activities and experiences to extend the pupil’s learning.

The EYFS learning environment is organised to allow pupils to explore and learn securely and safely. There are areas where the pupils can be active, be quiet and rest. The environment is set up in learning areas, where pupils are able to find and locate equipment and resources independently. Our Reception classes have access to an outdoor space daily. This has a positive effect on the pupil’s development. Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors. It offers the pupils the opportunity to explore, use their senses and be physically active and exuberant. We plan activities and resources for the pupils to access indoors and outdoors that help the pupils to develop and learn across all seven areas of learning.

Learning through Purposeful Play

At Kilburn Grange School, we recognise the importance of play for young pupils. It is an essential and rich part of their learning process. Play is a powerful motivator, providing multiple ways for pupils to learn a variety of different skills and concepts.

‘Each area of learning and development must be implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity. Play is essential for pupil’s development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others. Pupils learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.’ (1.8 Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2014)

Well-planned play, both indoors and outdoors, provides key opportunities for young pupils to learn with enjoyment and challenge. We recognise the importance of the adult support and a secure environment in the role of effective high quality play.

Effective high quality play opportunities involve:

- Planning and resourcing a challenging environment
- Supporting, extending and developing pupil’s learning through purposefully planned play activities
- Extending and supporting child-initiated play
- Extending and developing pupil’s language and communication in their play

The secure environment and adult support in play enables pupils to:

- Explore, develop and represent learning experiences that help them to make sense of the world
- Practice and build up ideas, concepts and skills
- Be alone, be alongside others or cooperate as they talk or rehearse their feelings
- Take reasonable risks, make and learn from mistakes
- Think creatively and imaginatively
- Communicate with others as they investigate or solve problem

At Kilburn Grange School, we acknowledge that young pupils learn best when they are active. We understand that active learning involves other people, objects and events that engage and involve pupils for sustained periods. Active learning occurs when pupils are motivated and interested. Pupils need to have some independence and control over their learning. As pupils develop their confidence they learn to make decisions. It provides pupils with a sense of satisfaction as they take ownership of their learning. Pupils are given opportunities to be creative through all areas of learning. Adults support pupil’s thinking and help them to make connections by showing genuine interest, offering encouragement, clarifying ideas, asking open questions, providing feedback and scaffolding.

Learning and Development

We recognise that pupils learn and develop in different ways and at different rates. We value all areas of learning and development equally and understand that they are all important and inter connected.

Our policy on learning and teaching defines the features of effective teaching and learning in our school.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

‘In planning and guiding pupil’s activities, practitioners must reflect on the different ways that pupils learn and reflect these in their practice.’ (1.9 Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2014)

The three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- playing and exploring - pupils investigate and experience things, and ‘have a go’;
- active learning - pupils concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements; and

- creating and thinking critically - pupils have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

The Early Years Curriculum

The Early Learning Goals are the knowledge, skills and understanding which young pupils should have acquired by the time they reach the age of five. The statutory early learning goals outline the expectations for most pupils to reach by the end of the EYFS. The curriculum is carefully planned to ensure progression and continuity of skills in seven areas of learning. These areas of learning depend on each other to support a rounded approach to early years' development. All the areas will be delivered through planned, purposeful play, with a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities.

There are three prime areas:

Communication and Language Development involves giving pupils 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. The development and use of communication and language is at the heart of young pupil's learning and opportunities will be provided for pupils to use their skills in a range of situations and for a range of purposes, and be supported in developing the confidence and disposition to do so.

Physical Development involves providing opportunities for young pupils to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Pupils must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food. Young pupil's physical development is inseparable from all other aspects of development because they learn through being active and interactive. They use all their senses to learn about the world around them and make connections between new information and what they already know.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development involves helping pupils 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.

There are also four specific areas through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied: Literacy Development involves encouraging pupils to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Pupils must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest. We will endeavour to promote a love of reading and writing through providing an environment rich in print and possibilities for communication.

Mathematics involves providing pupils 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. Experiencing concepts in a practical context and linking experiences to everyday life is crucial in the early stages of development. The pupils will be provided with opportunities to practice and extend their skills in these areas and to gain confidence and competence in their use.

Understanding the World involves guiding pupils 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. In this area of learning, pupils are developing the crucial knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of the world. This forms the foundation for later work in science, history, geography, technology and computing.

Expressive Arts and Design involves enabling pupils 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. Being creative enables pupils to make connections between one area of learning and another and so extend their understanding.

Planning

Yearly and half-termly planning is based around curriculum themes. Planning incorporates a balance between adult and child initiated activities and experiences, taking account of pupil's individual needs, stages of development and interests. Planning incorporates all areas of learning and development and puts the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage into practice. Our Curriculum Policy entails further aspects of our curriculum.

'Practitioners must consider the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child in their care, and must use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience for each child in all of the areas of learning and development.' (1.6 Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2014)

Planning always follows the same pattern – observe, analyse and use the information about the pupils to plan for the next steps in their learning. Through careful planning we aim to:

- Provide a carefully structured curriculum, building on and extending pupil's knowledge, experiences, interests, stages of development and skills;
- Provide a wide range of well planned, purposeful, challenging activities that utilise the pupil's interests, needs and previous knowledge;
- Support and develop pupil's involvement and concentration in order for them to learn effectively;
- Present activities in many ways and use a range of teaching strategies;
- Develop self-esteem and confidence in their ability to learn;
- Provide a safe and secure learning environment, where each child is valued;
- Monitor pupil's progress, identifying areas of concern/next steps and taking action to provide support;
- Provide educational visits to support pupil's learning;
- Give opportunities for self-assessment and reflection.

Assessment and Recording

Pupils are assessed thoroughly upon entering our Reception classes. This on-entry baseline assessment is compiled during the pupil's first term at Kilburn Grange School. It includes a range of formal and informal observations and assessments. The baseline assessment also reflects information from home visits and any reports and information from prior early care experiences.

We make regular assessments of pupil's learning and use this information to ensure that future planning reflects identified needs. Assessment in the EYFS involves dialogues, marking work and observations. These observations are recorded in pupil's individual 'Learning Journey' profiles. They also contain information provided by parents, carers and other professionals.

'On-going assessment is an integral part of the learning and development process. It involves practitioners observing pupils to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles, and to then shape learning experiences for each child reflecting those observations. In their interactions

with pupils, practitioners should respond to their own day-to-day observations about pupil's progress and observations that parents and carers share.' (2.1 Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2014)

Staff ensure that they:

- Make systematic observations and assessments of each child's achievements, interests and learning styles;
- Use these observations and assessments to identify learning priorities, next steps, interests and plan relevant and motivating learning experiences for each child;
- Match their observations to the expectations of the Development Matters and Early Learning Goals;
- Assessment does not entail prolonged breaks from interaction with pupils and is high quality, rather than entailing excessive paperwork.

We use the Development Matters and the Early Learning Goals to assess the pupils in the Foundation Stage. In each learning area, the Development Matters and Early Learning Goals define the expectations for most pupils. Practitioners plot the individual progress of each child as they grow and develop and as the child progresses through the school the staff will make judgments based on their observations and knowledge of the child in all seven areas of learning.

During the Reception year, the pupils are assessed against the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. This is also informed by the observations, assessments, discussions with parents/carers and other professionals and each child's level of development is recorded against the 17 scales derived from the Early Learning Goals.

During the year, there are formal opportunities to feedback information to parents and carers through termly Family Fridays and parent/carer consultations in the Autumn, Spring and Summer Terms. Parents and carers are vital partners in the assessment process. Towards the end of the academic year, a written report covering the seven areas of learning will be given to parents and carers indicating whether pupils are meeting expected levels of development, or if they are exceeding expected levels, or not yet reaching expected levels ('emerging').

Our Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy provides more information about the assessment, data and tracking procedures at Kilburn Grange School.

Reception to Year 1 Transition

At Kilburn Grange School, Reception practitioners prepare pupils for more formal learning and the national curriculum in Year 1. More information about our transition process is included in our transition guidance.

'As pupils grow older, and as their development allows, it is expected that the balance will gradually shift towards more activities led by adults, to help pupils prepare for more formal learning, ready for Year 1.' (1.8 Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2014)

Safeguarding and Welfare Arrangements

'Pupils learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them.' (3.1 statutory Framework for EYFS 2014)

It is important to us that all pupils in our school are 'safe'. We aim to educate pupils on boundaries, rules and limits. We provide pupils with choices to help them develop this important life skill. Pupils should be allowed to take risks, but need to be taught how to recognise and avoid hazards.

At Kilburn Grange School, we recognise our responsibility for promoting the welfare of our youngest pupils:

- All adults with access to our pupils will receive a DBS check and as part of the induction process will have discussed and signed a school code of conduct;
- All staff employed by Kilburn Grange School receive a thorough induction training to help them understand their roles, responsibilities and key information about how things work at Kilburn Grange School;
- All staff employed by Kilburn Grange School will undertake regular Child Protection training and are expected to follow the school policy in following up a cause for concern;
- Staffing will be organised to ensure the safety of the pupils and to ensure staff/child ratios are always followed;
- First aid will only be administered by trained personnel. Procedures are in place to inform parents/carers of accidents involving their child;
- Procedures are in place to ensure security of pupils and the safe release of pupils into the care of individuals named by the parent/carer;
- As part of the process to achieve healthy school status, we consistently focus on emotional well-being, healthy eating and physical activity. Good health will be promoted and appropriate action will be taken when pupils are ill;
- Routines are in place to support pupils's growing understanding of personal hygiene;
- Pupils's behaviour is managed effectively through the use of a whole school behaviour system, which is adapted to the stage and development of individual needs;
- Risk assessments will be undertaken and reviewed regularly;
- Indoor and outdoor premises, furniture and equipment will be regularly checked and repaired, washed etc. as required;
- Records, policies and procedures required for the safe efficient management of the setting will be maintained;
- Policy documents will be available for parents and carers.