



CARLINGHOW ACADEMY

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE POLICY

Approved by:	Marie Fishwick		
Responsible department:	SLT		
Last review date:	Sept 24	Last reviewed by:	T Watson
Last updated:	June 25	Last updated by:	R Wilkinson
Next review due:	Sept 26		

Rationale

This policy is based on requirements set out in the [Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#).

At Carlinghow Academy, the Early Years Foundation Stage currently consists of two year old provision - Little Explorers, which offers 3 hour sessions every morning, a Nursery class, which offers both 15hr and 30hr places (for qualifying parents) and a Reception class. We admit children into Nursery from the term following their 3rd birthday until they reach full-time school age. In Nursery, we may also offer additional sessions, charged beyond the free entitlement. Additional sessions are charged at £15 per session.

School starts at 8:30am and finishes at 3:00pm for all Reception and full-time Nursery children.

“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. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.”

DFE EYFS Statutory Framework

Carlinghow Academy will comply with all current legal requirements contained in the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework.

Equal Opportunities

Our school seeks to foster warm, welcoming and respectful environments, which allow us to question and challenge discrimination and inequality, resolve conflicts peacefully and work and learn free from harassment and violence.

We recognise that there are similarities and differences between individuals and groups but we will strive to ensure that our differences do not become barriers to participation, access and learning and to create inclusive processes and practices, where the varying needs of individuals and groups are identified and met. We therefore cannot achieve equality for all by treating everyone the same.

We will build on our similarities and seek enrichment from our differences and so promote understanding and learning between and towards others to create cohesive communities.

Our school is clear about the need to actively support pupils with medical conditions to participate in school trips and visits, or in sporting activities, and not prevent them from doing so. The school will consider what reasonable adjustments need to be made to enable these pupils to participate fully and safely on school trips, visits and sporting activities.

Risk assessments will be carried out so that planning arrangements take account of any steps needed to ensure that pupils with medical conditions are included. In doing so, pupils, their parents and any relevant healthcare professionals will be consulted.

Aims

Carlinghow Academy will provide children with a secure and confident start to their education in order to nurture a lifelong love and enjoyment of learning.

It is every child’s right to grow up safe, healthy, enjoying and achieving, making a positive contribution and with economic wellbeing.

We are fully committed to the purpose, aims and intended outcomes of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework outlined below;

Unique Child

- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum that supports and challenges all areas of development and is relevant to all children's unique needs and abilities.
- To support the physical, emotional, mental, social, environmental and spiritual wellbeing of all children.
- To ensure the provision reflects the wide range of varied interests of the children and the importance of play.

Positive Relationships

- To promote professional, caring relationships which respect and acknowledge the feelings of all children.
- To value and respect all individuals and communities.
- To develop positive and trusting relationships with all children.
- To work in partnership with other settings, professionals and the community to support children's development and progress.

Enabling Environments

- To provide a safe and secure environment for all children.
- To provide a rich and stimulating learning environment that supports and promotes active learning and creative critical thinking.
- To value and promote the importance of outdoor learning opportunities.
See Outdoor Play Policy.
- To work closely with staff to ensure continuity and progression when children enter KS1.

Learning and Development

The classrooms are carefully planned to ensure all areas are used to enable learning for every child. The children have the choice of where they choose to learn. All activities are based upon current assessment and have a main learning intention that can be accessed with and without adult support. Our basic provision is linked to the age related expectations of the cohort. We encourage child initiated activities and adapt our continuous provision accordingly. We enhance our provision through objects, prompts, conversation and questioning.

Curriculum

Our Early Years Foundation Stage follows the curriculum as outlined in the statutory framework of the EYFS. This framework defines what we teach and we use the Development Matters guidance to support our curriculum.

The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. Three of the areas are referred to as the Prime Areas. These are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving (Early Years Framework).

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

Our teaching of synthetic phonics is based on the Read, Write, Inc. scheme and our teaching of mathematics is guided by the White Rose Maths Hub.

Assessment and Reporting

At Carlinghow Academy, 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. Practitioners also take into account observations shared by parents and/or carers.

Assessment and Record keeping

We analyse and review what we know about each child's development and learning, and then make informed decisions about supporting the child's progress. This enables us to plan the next steps for individuals and groups of children by providing challenging but achievable activities and experiences to extend the children's learning. All practitioners who interact with the child contribute to the assessment process. Staff review the tracking data termly with the EYFS Leader/Senior Leadership Team, monitoring rates of progress and identifying strategies that address learning and teaching priorities and next steps.

Formative assessment

This type of assessment informs everyday planning and is based on on-going observational assessment of each child's achievements, interests and learning styles. Formative assessment may take the form of anecdotal and focused narrative observations, other targeted assessments, annotated examples of work, photographs, and information from parents. Observations are levelled against age-related developmental bands and the Characteristics of Effective Learning. We plan for observational assessment when undertaking short term planning.

Summative assessment

In the Nursery, summative assessment is made using the Development Matters in the EYFS document. The child's progress is monitored through the nursery & recorded in all areas of learning, each term. Children are levelled according to the age bands and within these are judged as emerging or secure. Evidence from formative assessments provides the basis of the end of year report that is shared with parents. During the Reception year the children are assessed in the same way as Nursery children but extra to this they are assessed using Baseline NFER at the beginning of the year and against the EYFS Profile at the end of the year. These are nationally employed assessment tools. The EYFSP is informed by the formative assessments undertaken and children are judged to be emerging or expected in the age-related expectations. The profile is reported to parents along with comments on the child's ability to demonstrate the Characteristics of Effective Learning.

Taken from the Assessment Policy: Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA)

The Reception baseline assessment (RBA) - essential for building a fairer progress measure for primary schools - is an assessment that must be administered in all primary, infant and first schools in England to pupils attending Reception classes.

It became statutory from September 2021.

The assessment is short (the majority take less than 20 minutes to administer), interactive and practical, covering early mathematics, language, communication and literacy. Pupils use practical resources to complete the tasks and teachers record the results on a laptop, computer or tablet.

Teachers will administer the assessment in normal teaching time, recording the outcomes digitally. It should sit alongside the important activities that takes place during the first term of Reception.

School Baseline Assessments will be completed in Little Explorers, Nursery and Reception and are based on:

- Home visits / Nursery visits
- Observation
- Adult-Led activities
- Enhanced provision
- Discussions with parents / carers
- Characteristics of Effective Learning

Baseline assessments should be completed in the first six weeks of Reception. Baseline data will be added to Arbor - the online system used to track age related statements for the 7 areas of learning. These judgements are based on evidence gathered through observation of children's play/learning (80:20 ratio of child initiated: adult lead).

From baseline assessments, GLD projections should be completed in Reception and tracked throughout the year.

At the end of Reception all children will be assessed against the ELGs as emerging or expected for each of the 17 aspects of learning as set out in the EYFSP. Judgements should be made in accordance with the profile handbook and judgements will be moderated both in-house and at central moderation events.

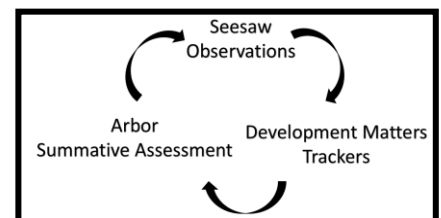
GLD (good level of development)

A GLD by the end of Reception relates to children who have achieved at least 'expected' in all of the prime areas of learning as well as reading, writing and maths. Parents and carers are informed whether their child has reached a GLD in the end of year reports.

Ongoing Assessment in EYFS

Children's progress and attainment is tracked against Development Matters age related statements for the 7 areas of learning (prime and specific), and the characteristics of effective learning (CoEL). These judgements are based on evidence gathered through observation of children's play/learning (80:20 ratio of child initiated: adult lead).

EYFS staff will complete regular observations of the children and record these on Seesaw. These are shared with parents and are used to inform next steps, ongoing assessment and will be used as evidence of children's progress. EYFS staff will track children's progress using Development Matters trackers, using Seesaw observations to inform judgements and team moderation. Teachers will then use the trackers to inform judgements of summative assessments on Arbor.



Working with Parents/Carers

We recognise that children learn and develop well when there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.

Parents and/or carers are kept up to date with their child's progress and development. The progress check and EYFS profile helps to provide parents and/or carers with a well-rounded picture of their child's knowledge, understanding and abilities.

Each child is assigned a key person who helps to ensure that their learning and care is tailored to meet their needs. The key person supports parents and/or carers in guiding their child's development at home. The key person also helps families to engage with more specialist support, if appropriate.

Safeguarding and Welfare Procedures

We recognise that children 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. We follow safeguarding and welfare requirements to provide a welcoming, safe and stimulating environment where children are able to enjoy learning and grow in confidence. We encourage the children to take risks in a safe learning environment by helping them to recognise and avoid hazards. We aim to protect the physical and psychological well-being of all children. Within the Early Years, we ensure that our current practice and provision complies with the welfare requirements as stated in the Ofsted Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage.

Our team works collaboratively to:

- Promote the welfare and safeguarding of children.
- Promote good health, preventing the spread of infection and taking appropriate action when children are ill.
- Manage behaviour effectively in a manner appropriate for the children's stage of development and individual needs.
- Ensure all adults who look after children or who have unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.
- Ensure that the premises, furniture and equipment are safe and suitable for purpose.
- Ensure that every child receives enjoying and challenging learning and development experiences, tailored to meet their needs.
- We make sure that the appropriate statutory staff:child ratios are maintained in our setting to meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety

Health and Safety

A first-aid box is located in the EYFS unit. Only medicine prescribed to a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist will be administered. Any accident or injury involving a child will be reported to their parents on the day it occurs, and any first-aid treatment administered to a child will also be reported to their parents. Accidents and injuries will be recorded in an accident book, located in the EYFS unit. We have at least 1 person with a current Paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate on the premises and available at all times when children are present, including on outings. This PFA certificate is renewed every 3 years, as required.

Food and Drink

Where children are provided with meals, snacks, and drinks, these are healthy, balanced and nutritious. Before a child is admitted to the setting we obtain information about any special dietary requirements, preferences, food allergies and intolerances that the child has, and any special health requirements. Any dietary needs are recorded on Arbor and shared and acted on by staff.

Fresh drinking water is always available and accessible to children. Milk is available at snack time for pupils in Little Explorers and Nursery and for pupils in Reception up to their fifth birthday. After their fifth birthday, parents are given the option to pay for milk for their child. Fruit is provided daily for pupils in the Early Years to be eaten at a supervised Snack Time/Snack Table.

Children must always be within sight and hearing of a member of staff whilst eating. Pupils are supervised while eating their snack in the classroom or while eating their school dinner or packed lunch in the dining hall. Whilst children are eating there should always be a member of staff in the room with a valid paediatric first aid certificate.

Menus are shared with parents at the beginning of the school year and information is provided to parents regarding best practice for packed lunches.

We promote good oral health, as well as good health in general, in the early years by talking to children about:

The effects of eating too many sweet things.

The importance of brushing your teeth.

Healthy bodies is also covered through P.E. sessions linked to exercise.

Following the Jigsaw programme 'A healthy me.'

The rest of our safeguarding and welfare procedures are outlined in our school's child protection and safeguarding policy.

Conclusion

We will provide high quality Early Years education and care in accordance with the statutory requirements and guidance for EYFS. This will build a secure foundation for children's future learning and support each child individually to fulfil their own potential.

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the governing body annually.