



Kenningtons Primary Academy

Early Years Foundation Stage

October 2020

Approved by Governors	<i>Sarah Jeyaraj</i> / Chair of Governors
Date of Approval	<i>11/10/20</i>
Review Duration	<i>3</i> Years
Date of Policy Renewal	<i>OCTOBER 2023</i>

Kenningtons Primary Academy
Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of their Reception year. The Academy's Early Years Foundation Stage accommodates children from the age of 3 to 5. At the Academy we have a Nursery, which offers a morning session 8.45am-11.45am, and an afternoon session from 12.30pm-3.30pm. Parents are able to purchase additional hours for £5 per hour. In the Nursery we have a Nursery Teacher with qualified teacher status, a Nursery Nurse and a Teaching Assistant.

We have 2 reception classes with 30 children in each class. To ensure best practice we have two adults, one teacher and one teaching assistant attached to each class. In addition to this we have support staff who also work within the classes and provide extra support and intervention where needed.

Aims

At Kenningtons Primary Academy, we aim to provide the highest quality care and education for all our children; therefore, giving them the strong foundation for their future. We aim to ensure that all our children develop into independent and lifelong learners.

As outlined in Development Matters, in the Early Years Foundation Stage: 'Children develop quickly in the early years, and early years' practitioners aim to do all they can to help children have the best possible start in life. Children have a right, spelled out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, to provision which enables them to develop their personalities, talents and abilities irrespective of ethnicity, culture or religion, home language, family background, learning difficulties, disabilities or gender'.

Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

Our high expectations will enable children to develop socially, physically, intellectually and emotionally and to achieve their full potential. We will ensure that all our children are kept healthy and safe and that they achieve the knowledge and skills they need to start in Key Stage 1.

Curriculum

The Nursery and Reception follow the curriculum as outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework. The EYFS is based upon four principles:

- A unique Child: every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- Positive Relationships: children learn to be strong and independent through strong relationships
- Enabling Environments: 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/carers

Learning and Development

Children develop and learn in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early year's provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities. As part of our best practice we:

- Provide a balanced curriculum, based on the EYFS, across the seven areas of learning
- Promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice
- Provide early intervention for those who need additional support
- Work in partnership with parents and where needed outside agencies
- Plan challenging learning experiences for all our children, based on the individual needs of the child
- Provide opportunities for our children to engage in adult led learning and self- initiated learning
- Provide a secure and safe learning environment indoors and outdoors
- Plan an exciting and challenging curriculum based on our observations of children's needs, interests and stages of development across the seven areas of learning Areas of Learning.

Seven Areas of Learning:

The EYFS is made up of three prime areas of learning:

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

There are four specific areas of learning:

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

All seven areas of learning and development are important and interconnected.

At Kenningtons Primary Academy, children are provided with a range of rich, meaningful first hand experiences, in which children can explore, think creatively and are active. We provide a well - balanced curriculum and our planning ensures that each child has the opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in every area of the EYFS. Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful activities and through a mix of adult led and child initiated learning.

Inclusion

All children will receive quality first teaching on a daily basis and activities will be open ended so that children can access it at the level and stage that they are at. In addition to this, where children have been identified as having a specific need, intervention activities will be implemented. Teachers and Teaching Assistants plan activities to work on targets set on their Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Where needed there is liaison with the Special Needs Co-ordinator and other professionals e.g. Educational Psychologists, Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists.

The needs of children with English as an additional language will be met through planning and sometimes with intervention activities from IEP targets also.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

- Assessments are made in line with the EYFS
- Daily practice includes observations of children's development and progress
- Discussions are held with all adults in EYFS about individual children's development and next steps
- Significant observations of children's' achievements are recorded in their learning journeys which are shared with parents
 - Parents are invited to two parent's consultations (one in the Autumn Term and one in the Spring Term) where teachers discuss with them, how their child is doing.
- An end of year report is provided to all parents/carers on their child's development discussing all seven areas of learning, through the characteristics of learning.

At the end of Reception children are assessed against the Early Learning Goals for each area of learning

Transitions

At Kenningtons Primary Academy, we recognise that starting school and moving up classes has the potential to be a stressful time for both parents and children. To this end we have established a strong set of procedures for transitions to be smooth as possible. All children starting in our Nursery have home visits prior to their child starting nursery. This gives children the security of meeting with their teacher in a safe, familiar environment and gives parents time to ask questions and share knowledge or any concerns they have about their child.

In addition to this all the children have a stay and play session in the Nursery to meet the other staff and get familiar with their new surroundings, with their familiar adult from home present too. Parents are invited in to an 'intake meeting', led by the EYFS Coordinator (Mrs Mack), alongside the Nursery Teacher. Parents will have the opportunity to look around the Nursery and to ask any questions that they may have about their child starting at Nursery.

There is also an e-book on the school website for the Nursery children, which is like a social story about starting at our Nursery, which is helpful for the children to look at before starting.

All children starting Reception have visits to the Reception classroom and outdoor space. Children who have been at our Nursery visit during the day, once a week during the last few weeks of the Summer Term. Children who come from other Nurseries are invited in to attend two play session afternoons, in the last few weeks of term.

Parents are invited in for an 'intake meeting' which is led by Mrs Sawtell-Haynes, the Headteacher, alongside other important members of staff, such as EYFS Lead (Mrs Mack), Reception Teachers and the Pastoral Manager (Tracey Dole). Parents can ask questions and share information about their child.

Added to this, for those children who are at Kenningtons Nursery, we have very strong opportunities for transition across the year as they often do activities with the Reception children such as Nursery Rhyme performances in Nursery Rhyme week, joint experiments in Science week and a shared Easter bonnet parade in the Spring term. The environment becomes very familiar to them and so do the Reception adults too.

Those children coming from different settings to our Reception are visited, where possible, by the Early Years Co-ordinator and their progress and development shared by their Nursery key worker.

Reception staff do home visits for those children who did not attend our Nursery.

We have a staggered intake in our Early Years in order to ensure that children who need extra support are given time at each start date to settle in.

The parents of children Reception have a 'School Readiness' form to complete through the Summer holidays. It outlines statements across all areas of learning, which we feel would hold children in good stead for being 'school ready'. It has some suggestions for what parents can do at home to help their child and a comment box for parents to write any notes they have in relation to how their child is doing.

In the summer term all our Reception children visit their new Year 1 teachers during our 'Meet the Teacher' day, prior to them starting Year 1. Reception teachers pass on their knowledge of each child's development, progress and achievement towards the early learning goals to ensure that all teachers have a well - rounded picture of the children prior to starting the new school year. Additionally, we invite some Year 1 children down to Reception to talk to them about what their year in Year 1 was like. This gives the Reception children the opportunity to ask questions to their peers.

Health and Safety and Safeguarding

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 the safeguarding and welfare requirements detailed in the 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' statutory guidance and adhere to the Academy's safeguarding policy.

We are a healthy school and participate in the free fruit and milk for under-fives scheme. For our Reception children we provide the universal infant free school meal. We cater for those children who have special dietary requirements and have robust systems in place ensuring that all children receive the correct meal. Fresh water is readily available for all children and we encourage children to bring in water bottles with water only. Children are taught the importance of keeping clean and washing their hands.