

Early years foundation stage policy

Academy appendix

Edition – January 2023

1 Key personnel

Principal – Mrs Sarah Kahler

Early Years Leader – Mrs Heidi Warnes

SENDCO – Mrs Charlotte Adams

Reception teacher – Mrs Heidi Warnes

Nursery teacher – Miss Alex Hampshire

Early years teaching assistants – Miss Charlotte Rockley, Miss Kathy Taylor, Ms Martha Wheeler

Personal care assistants – Ms Martha Wheeler & Mrs Sarah Thacker

2 Organisation of learning

Our Foundation unit is split into separate areas of provision for Nursery and Reception with a shared outdoor area. Learning is divided between child initiated play, adult directed activities and adult focused group sessions.

We have 78 part time places in nursery available, the children can attend 15 hours either 5 morning or afternoon sessions each week and we have places for children that are eligible for the 30 hour entitlement. Children will have their own key worker in nursery and they will be in key worker groups for some of their focused learning time.

We have 40 full time places for Reception children and have one or two reception classes depending on numbers.

3 Organisation of the academy day

Nursery

Morning nursery sessions are from 8.45am until 11.45am.

Afternoon nursery sessions are from 12.30pm until 3.30pm.

Reception

The learning day is from 8.55am until 3.20pm with lunchtime being from 11.50am until 12.40pm.

4 Long term curriculum summary

We follow a 2 year cycle for our curriculum that builds upon the interests of the child as well as knowledge, skills, understanding and attitudes that children need to learn during the Foundation Stage in order to achieve the Early Learning Goals at the end of Reception. It focuses on the three prime areas as the children enter Nursery, ensuring that these areas remain a priority throughout the Foundation Stage. It is topic based which focuses on a key topic question each half term.

We provide quality continuous provision for all ages and abilities which encourages independent choice and allows children to revisit practise and repeat activities to deepen knowledge and understanding. A balance is maintained between adult-led and child-initiated activities, so children develop independence and self-management skills and become confident, critical and creative learners.

5 Extended nursery provision

We offer 30 hours provision for three and four year olds, which is from 8.45am until 3.30pm. There are three options with regards to the lunch time arrangement.

Option 1 – attend all week including lunchtime 11.45am -12.30pm and pay £2.50 per lunchtime to cover the extra 45 minutes (a total of £12.50 per week).

Option 2 – attend every morning and afternoon session and go home for each lunchtime between 11.45am and 12.30pm at no cost.

Option 3 – attend all week including the lunch times but go home at 11.45am on Fridays at no cost – the children will have had their 30 hrs entitlement by this time.

Whichever option is chosen will need to remain the same for a half term.

6 Any academy-specific assessment arrangements (particularly special academies)

Continual formative assessment is carried out in the form of observational assessments of children's interactions in and around the setting. These assessments link to the developmental milestones in the tracking tool. Staff are skilled at observing children to identify their achievements, interests and next steps for learning. Occasionally, photographs and videos are also taken to remark on the remarkable.

The Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) is a short assessment, taken in the first six weeks, in which a child starts Reception. At the end of their Reception year in the academy, the children's progress is recorded on the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. Children will be assessed as meeting expected levels of development, or not yet reaching expected levels (emerging).

7 Parent partnership

We invite all parents to take part in a comprehensive parent as partners programme, the term before starting our nursery, which offers both parents and children the opportunity to spend time in the Early Years Foundation Stage, getting to know staff and other children, fostering good relationships and communication between home and school.

We use a free app called Weduc to share all our important information with you as families and it also allows you to message your child's teacher if you have any queries.

We hold parent consultation evenings at various points during the year to formally discuss your child's progress. Also an attainment and progress report is provided at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

8 Compliments, queries and complaints

Parents are encouraged to direct any compliments, queries and complaints to the class teacher in the first instance by Weduc.

If there are any concerns, which have not been resolved after discussions with the class teacher, then an approach can be made to the Foundation Leader or Principal.

The governing body can become involved in serious matters of complaint (there is a full complaints procedure should a copy be required).

9 Date of ratification by local academy committee

February 2023

10 Date of next review

February 2024