



THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE POLICY

Introduction

'All children deserve the care and support they need to have the best start in life. Children learn and develop at a faster rate from birth to five years old than at any other time in their lives, so their experiences in early years 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 provide the foundation children need to fulfil their potential.'

The EYFS...promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.'

(Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage, 2024, DfE).

Our aims and principles

We are committed to 'whole-child' development and provide a highly individualised curriculum that meets the needs of our children.

A Unique Child

- Our curriculum is individualised to focus on the whole child and considers all of their needs.
- There is a strong belief that the child CAN learn and therefore all activities are viewed as learning opportunities.
- Children are encouraged to be active, independent learners who develop the ability to problem-solve and apply skills (orthofunction)
- The experiences will build on what the children already can do.
- Our curriculum will be carefully structured, following the EYFS Development Matters Guidance Material, recognising children's different starting points and relevancy to their different levels of need.

Positive Relationships

- No child will be excluded or disadvantaged.
- The Teacher / Conductor-Teacher will model practice and promote positive relationships with staff and children.
- Children will have opportunities to work in a range of groups and develop their social skills. Working with others is seen as a source of motivation.
- We will forge strong links with parents and carers.

Enabling Environments

- We will ensure the learning environment is attractive, well organised and promotes independence.
- We will provide opportunities for children to engage in indoor and outdoor activities planned and directed by adults as well as activities that offer opportunities for child choice and free play.
- We will provide facilitation (equipment, manual, use of environment) to enable the children to succeed. Experiencing success is crucial.
- We will observe and respond appropriately to children, informed by our knowledge of how children learn and develop.



Learning and Development

- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. They will all enter the setting at different starting points. Activities and resources are differentiated to meet individual children's needs.
- We seek to address the needs of the whole child through the holistic nature of Conductive Education (children with physical needs).
- Learning is active. Developing the child across the prime areas will be considered in all activities.

Induction

The school's individualised induction programme aims to make the transition into school life as smooth as possible for all children and their parents. Hence we arrange:

- A visit and tour of the school and an opportunity to meet with staff working here
- A meeting to discuss the child's needs, likes, interests and skills
- A home visit where appropriate
- Opportunities for children to spend time in school, both with and without their parents.

The manner in which children are introduced to the school depends on their individual needs. Some children visit over a period of time with and without their parents. Other children build up from half days without their parents. Once children are attending school without their parents, contact is maintained through the Family app, face-to face conversations and telephone calls.

Staffing and organisation of classes

Greenhall currently has four classes, each headed by a Teacher who is assisted by support staff. Other professionals are an integral part of the staff team and spend time working with the children e.g. Physiotherapists and OT. The majority of children participate in a hydrotherapy /swimming session in the school pool. In addition to this, the school is supported by Speech and Language Therapists, a teacher for hearing and visually impaired pupils and educational psychologists, as well as other professionals as needed.

Organisation will change annually depending on the number of pupils and needs. However, we will endeavour to recognise pupils individualised needs whilst ensuring all pupils have equal access to activities regardless of age, disability, gender, religion / belief or race (see equal opportunities policy).

The Early Years Foundation Stage is organised into times in which the children take part in teacher-led activities, and times in which they can choose from a variety of carefully planned activities based within the seven areas of learning and designed to help children progress through age & stages of development, towards the Early Learning Goals. Learning activities are planned by the teacher with input from the rest of the team.



Curriculum

The curriculum is well planned to ensure children can select a wide variety of activities and explore independently. The recognition of the prime areas in the EYFS, namely Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development, perfectly complements the needs of our children.

The classrooms are organised to enable pupils to be as independent as possible when transferring around the room.

We provide our pupils with a broad and stimulating range of experiences appropriate to their stage of development, and we plan opportunities and activities for the children to develop across the seven areas of learning and development.

Prime areas

These areas are fundamental, work together and move through to support development in all other areas

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

Specific areas

These 'include essential skills and knowledge for children to participate successfully in society.'

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

ICT is recognised as being an integral part of the curriculum. It is imbedded into all areas of learning and adapted for children's individual needs. The role that this plays in our school in terms of communication is key and therefore children are encouraged to develop their access skills right from the start.

(See 'Our Curriculum' document for further information)

Home-school partnership

We believe that parents and carers are our partners in children's learning. We try to develop a close working relationship between home and school involving parents in their child's development as much as possible. Some of the ways we encourage this are;

- Adopting an 'open door policy' so that parents and teachers have the opportunity to chat informally at the beginning and end of the school day.
- Involving parents and carers as helpers for regular classroom activities and for special events such as educational visits within the local area.
- Welcoming parents to informative 'coffee mornings' where parents and carers are invited to come, meet and chat with each other.
- Communication via the Family app
- Formal meetings held six-monthly (for under 5 year olds) or annually (once the child is 5 years of age) to discuss pupil progress and to review a child's EHCP



- Parents evenings
- Whole school newsletters
- School website

Links with community

We use opportunities offered by the local community in the following ways:

- Explore local environment through educational visits related to specific topics
- Visits from the people in the local community who come to talk to the children (police, fire service, nurses, etc...)
- Link days with local primary schools

Equal opportunities

We seek to develop inclusive practices that promote and value diversity and difference. Inappropriate attitudes and practices are challenged and children are encouraged to value and respect others (see Equal Opportunities Policy).

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

We use 'Development Matters' and 'Early Learning Goals' (from the EYFS) and Connecting Steps V5 (B Squared EYFS). Our assessment procedures are:

- Each child has a 'Learning Journey', where positive achievements, observations, photographic evidence, are shared with parents through the Family app
- Each child has targets in their Personalised Learning Plan which are tracked and monitored across the term.
- We use the Engagement Profile to consider children's engagement and incorporate findings into our planning.
- A report is written detailing progress every 6 months (when the child is under 5) or annually (once the child is 5 years of age).
- All assessment systems are used throughout the year and provide a basis for reporting to parents and inform future attainment and to set targets.
- In line with the EYFS Statutory Framework, we complete a two year old progress check on children (between their 2nd and 3rd birthday) and the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (at the end of the child's Reception year) (see assessment Policy)

Monitoring and Evaluation

Under the oversight of the Headteacher, the class teachers / Conductor-teachers have the responsibility for the co-ordination and leadership of our overall provision.

Their role includes:

- Ensuring provision of appropriate, comprehensive and stimulating curriculum.
- Providing opportunities for child-led activities as well as adult-led activities, taking into account the children's individual abilities and needs.
- Leading their staff teams and supporting them in ensuring the school's policies and practices are delivered to a high standard.
- Co-ordinating planning, assessment, recording, reporting.
- Maintaining good liaisons with parents and the community.
- Reporting on standards and on teaching and learning to the Headteacher and governors.

GREENHALL



We are also monitored by the Trust DCEO & Director of Education and Ofsted.

Policy reviewed and approved: 3/12/24

Signed.....Date.....
(Headteacher)

Signed.....Date.....
(Chair of Local Governing Board)