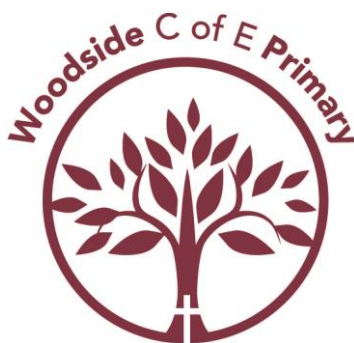


'Live life in all its' fullness'



WOODSIDE C.E.(VC) PRIMARY SCHOOL

EYFS Policy

School expectations and guidance for staff, parents and local academy board on EYFS- Early Years Foundation Stage

2025-2027

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| Date Ratified: | September 25 |
| Date Due for Review: | September 27 |
| Signed Head Teacher: | |
| Signed Chair of LAB (where appropriate): | |

Love Respect Hope Forgiveness Challenging Injustice

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1. Our Intent and Aims

"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." Statutory framework for the early year's foundation stage, Department for Education 2021

Within Early Years at Woodside Primary School, we aim to:

- give each child a happy, positive, and enjoyable start to their school life within a safe and secure environment.
- establish solid foundations and foster a deep love of learning.
- enable each child, through encouragement and high expectations, to develop socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually to thrive in a diverse and ever-changing world.
- offer a structure for learning that has a range of starting points and unlimited opportunity for development.
- offer a broad and rich curriculum.
- encourage children to develop independence within a nurturing and supportive atmosphere.
- support children to build relationships through the development of social skills such as cooperation and sharing.
- help each child to recognise their own strengths and achievements by experiencing success and developing their confidence to work towards personal goals.

Legislation

This policy is based on requirements set out in the September 2023 statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

2. Implementation-Structure of EYFS

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of the reception year. Our Early Years Foundation Stage accommodates children from the age of 2 to 5 years.

In our school we have two nursery classes- Roots (2–3-year-old provision- 8 places), Shoots (3–4-year-old provision-26 places) and one full-time Reception class. Our reception class takes 30 children every year and has a full time Reception class teacher and a full-time teaching assistant.

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3. Admissions

Nursery

Woodside Nursery welcomes children in the term after their 2nd or 3rd birthday. We currently offer a September, January and April intake each academic year. This is subject to current interest as we begin to fill places within our new Nursery provision from September 25. The intakes are then likely to reduce as the nursery becomes more established.

Each child is entitled to a 15-hour place, which can be booked current based on requirements needed. For parents who meet the 30 hours criteria, we provide funded full-time places for pupils to attend Nursery Monday to Friday. Additionally, we offer top-up sessions at a charge of £18.00 per session- three hours, with parents invoiced half termly with the agreement of payment being received by the school office on a weekly basis. *Please see our 'Charging and Remissions Policy' for detailed information.*

Reception

We admit children into our Reception class in September after their 4th birthday. Reception places are full-time Monday to Friday, and we are able to offer 30 places. Parents/carers must register with Warwickshire County Council to apply for their child to attend the school of their choice, and these places are given following Woodside's admission criteria available on our school website. Children who attend Woodside's Nursery must still apply through Warwickshire for a place in Reception.

4. Our Curriculum

Our EYFS children follow the curriculum as outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) document. This framework defines what we teach, and we use the Birth to 5 guidance to support our curriculum. The EYFS framework includes seven areas of learning and development, all of which are seen as important and interconnected.

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 2023)

The prime areas are:

- **Communication and language**
Listening, Attention and Understanding
Speaking
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
Self-regulation
Managing Self
Building Relationships
- **Physical Development**
Gross Motor
Fine Motor

The Prime areas are strengthened and applied through the further four areas which are referred to as the Specific areas.

- **Literacy**
Comprehension
Word Reading
Writing
- **Mathematics**
Numbers
Numerical patterns
- **Understanding the World**
Past and present
People, culture and communities
The Natural World
- **Expressive Arts and Design**
Creating with materials
Being imaginative and expressive

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We enrich the Early Years framework with our **'Woodside 11 by 11'** curriculum to enhance the experience and opportunities available to the children. This includes special events and celebrations, memorable experiences, themes selected to drive the curriculum and the PSHE Jigsaw scheme.

Our teaching of systematic synthetic phonics is based on the Little Wandle scheme, and our teaching of mathematics is guided by the NCETM Maths Mastery and White Rose Hub. Our teaching of Literacy is guided by core texts.

'It is the role of the setting to help children experience the awe and wonder of the world in which they live, through the seven areas of learning.' Ofsted Early Years Inspection Handbook, May 2019

5. Play

Learning through play underpins our approach to teaching and learning in the foundation stage. We embrace the fact that young children learn best from activities and experiences that interest and inspire them to learn. Therefore, we follow the Early Excellence pedagogy, and we have environments that provide continuous provision.

Our Nursery and Reception classrooms and outdoor areas are set up with areas of learning, offering continuous provision to build upon and deepen experiences and learning from Nursery through to the end of Reception. Continuous provision provides children with stimulating, active play to encourage creative and critical thinking alongside other children, as well as on their own. Children are able to practice skills, build upon and revisit prior learning and experiences at their own level and pace. Play gives our children the opportunity to pursue their own interests, stimulate new interests, inspire those around them and consolidate their understanding and skills. The children learn to adapt, negotiate, communicate, discuss, investigate and ask questions. Our adults take an active role in child-initiated play through observing, modelling and questioning. They teach and extend play whilst developing skills and language.

We understand that outdoor play is of equal importance as indoor play and that the outdoor classroom offers children 'bigger', 'louder' and 'messier' experiences. We therefore aim to offer access to our outdoor learning areas throughout the school day as well as providing opportunities once a week to explore the beautiful woodlands on our doorstep.

6. Characteristics of Effective Learning

The EYFS also includes the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' which help practitioners identify a child's attitude to learning and their ability to play, explore and think critically about the world around them.

The three characteristics are:

- **Playing and Exploring**- children investigate and experience things and 'have a go'.
- **Active Learning**- children concentrate and keep trying if they encounter difficulties, they enjoy achievements.
- **Creating and Thinking Critically**- children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things.

7. Teaching

We ensure there is a balance of child- initiated learning through continuous provision, and adult led activities, across the school day. Although much of the time is spent with children self-selecting tasks, the interaction between the adult and child is essential. The adults respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction. The adult's role is to continually model, demonstrate and question what the child is doing. In some cases, the adult will ask a child to complete a task with them; at other times they will participate in the child's play, extending it where possible. We see our Early Years staff as "co-adventurers".

There are set routines that we follow each day. There are designated times when the children come together to be taught. Stories and rhymes are at the heart of curriculum and stories and rhymes will be read every day across EYFS. In Roots class, these sessions will mainly focus upon developing and practising skills in the Prime areas of learning. For the Shoots class these sessions will also focus upon phonics skills and early number skills. In Reception, these sessions will focus on maths, literacy, phonics, stories and topic work. These times provide the opportunity for children to develop their ability to work as a group to listen, to take turns, to answer and concentrate.

Whole class reading and story time are important parts of the day. We want our children to develop a lifelong love of reading. Children are exposed to a wide range of both fiction and non-fiction texts to provide them with opportunities to hear and use new vocabulary. We use 'Core Texts' to teach our children writing which is based around high quality books the children will know and love from a range of cultures. We also make sure there is always time for a whole class story during the day, as well as opportunities to enjoy books within the continuous provision.

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In Reception every child is provided with their own book bag and will receive a reading for progress book once a week and a reading for pleasure book once a week to read at the weekends.

8. Planning

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum provides the basis for planning in our Nursery and Reception classes (Foundation Stage). The planning objectives within the Foundation Stage are supported by the Development Matters Statements from the Early Years Foundation Stage document. Our planning is based upon themes with discrete lessons in phonics, reading, writing and maths.

Practitioners select themes according to children's interests, experiences, and prior learning. Progress and curriculum coverage are monitored half-termly. Each learning area in the classroom and outdoor area have provision plans, which identify learning opportunities and suggested enhancements. Staff reflect on the different ways that children learn and include these in their practice. They also respond to children's social and emotional needs as well as their academic achievement.

9. Assessment

At Woodside Primary School, ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning and development processes. Practitioners observe pupils to identify their level of achievement, interests and learning styles. These observations are then used to inform future planning.

At the end of the EYFS (end of Reception), practitioners complete the EYFS profile (Statutory requirement) for each child. Pupils are assessed against the 16 early learning goals, indicating whether they are:

- 'Expected' - meeting expected levels of development.
- 'Emerging'- not yet reaching the expected levels of development.

Children's development levels are assessed as the year progresses. If a child's progress in any of the prime areas gives cause for concern, practitioners will discuss this with the child's parents/carers and agree how to support the child.

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Observations shared by parents and carers are a key aspect of the assessment process. Staff review development using the "Birth to 5 Matters" document at regular points throughout the year to ensure that children are on track with learning. These progress checks highlight areas in which a child is progressing well and the areas in which additional support is needed.

For children in Reception, it is a statutory requirement for all children to be assessed within six weeks of starting. This is known as the Reception Baseline Assessment or RBA.

10. Parent Partnership

We believe that education is a shared responsibility between school and home. We therefore work very closely to ensure that parents/carers are involved in their child's education.

We ensure that parents/ carers are kept up to date with their child's progress and development, through online learning journeys and parents' evenings. We understand the importance of parents/carers views, so provide opportunities for feedback throughout the school year.

We offer workshops to provide parents with an insight into how we teach specific areas of the Early Years Curriculum, detailing ways in which they can support their child's learning at home. These sessions also give parents/carers the opportunity to work with their child in the school environment.

11. Safeguarding

It is important to us that all children in the school are safe. 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 educate children on the importance of boundaries, rules and limits and we encourage them to become responsible for their own behaviour by supporting them to make the right choices. We teach the children how to recognise and manage risks in a supervised learning environment.

Qualifications

- Nursery Staffing consists of x2 L3 Practitioners and x2 L2 Practitioners based on ratios of 1:8 for 3–4-year-old provision and 1:5 for 2-year-old provision.
- Reception staff will consist of a fully qualified (QTS) teacher and a teaching assistant. There will be a ratio of at least 1:30 (QTS to pupils).

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All staff in EYFS are Paediatric First Aid trained.

Use of electronic devices – The use of all electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities will not be used. School, I Pads will be used in the early years to record for evidence of learning and for taking photos for display purposes.

Safeguarding pupils

As a school we will be alert to any issues of concern in the child's life at home or elsewhere. If we have concerns regarding a child's welfare or safety, we will implement policy and procedures in line with our Child Protection policy available on our school website and KCSIE 2025.

The DSL for Woodside is Natasha Johnson- Headteacher and there is several Deputy DSLs- see safeguarding page of the school website and Child Protection Policy.

Administering medication

Staff are trained in the administration of medication and all staff in the EYFS are Paediatric First Aid trained. Training is reviewed regularly. Medication is administered in line with the school medication policy available on the school website. Prescription medicines are not administered unless they have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist.

Food and Drink

Children in Nursery and Reception are provided with meals, snacks and drinks throughout the school day that are healthy, balanced, and nutritious. On entry to school, we collate information about any special dietary requirements, preferences and food allergies.

Children in EYFS have access to fresh drinking water at all times and snacks. Children in reception have access to fruit snacks, which they help themselves to and require no preparation by staff. In Nursery, children have snacks prepared by our school kitchen- Chartwells, who ensure the EYFS Nutrition policy is followed when preparing and serving. School dinners are prepared in line with food hygiene guidelines in the school kitchen through our catering provider- Chartwells and where children bring packed lunches in EYFS, we encourage parents to adhere to the government guidance on nutrition for children in the EYFS.

While children are eating, they will be within sight and hearing of an adult at all times in line with the EYFS framework 23.

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Intimate Care

In Nursery and Reception classrooms, children have access to their own toileting facilities, and we teach the children the importance of hygiene and hand washing techniques.

There are occasions when a child may wet or soil themselves at school. Whilst there is no compulsion on the school to deal with a problem of this nature, the school will never leave a child in this condition if possible.

In the event of a toileting accident, the school will take the following steps:

- Where appropriate the child will sort the problem themselves.
- Where possible children will change into spare clothes.
- If necessary, the parent/carer will be contacted to come into school and support their child to change.
- If no-one can be contacted two volunteer members of staff will be requested to help the child. Parents will be informed of this.
- If the problem is consistent then a meeting may be required between the SEND Team and the parent/carer.

Parents/carers will always be contacted when their child has had an accident. Depending on the severity of the accident, parents may be asked to come to school and support their child to change and/or take them home.

Accident or Injury

A First Aid bag is accessible at all times in EYFS with appropriate content for use with children. A written record of accidents or injuries and first aid treatment is completed in line with our school First Aid policy available on our school website. All medications, accidents, injuries and first aid treatment are recorded on Evolve our school management system.

Parents/Carers are informed of any accident or injury sustained by the child on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable after, and of any first aid treatment given.

Managing behaviour

Behaviour is managed in line with our school behaviour policy for all pupils' in EYFS. See our school website for our behaviour policy.

Risk assessments

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Reasonable steps are carried out to ensure staff and children in EYFS are not exposed to risks through thorough risk assessments in line with school health and safety policy available on the school website.

For school visits, risk assessments are carried out in line with the school educational visits policy and all risk assessments are completed and uploaded to Evolve Ratios are checked prior to the visit, and both of these are checked by the school EVC Coordinator who is the Headteacher- Natasha Johnson.

Please refer to our school's policies: Safeguarding and Behaviour for further information.

This policy will be reviewed by the Local Academy Board - LAB, every year.

We recognise that every child is unique and that they develop and learn in different ways and at varying rates. We want all of our children to develop a positive attitude to learning and therefore we strive for our children to become curious, resilient and self-assured in order to prepare them for the next stage of education, laying secure foundations for future learning and development.

This policy has been written with Christian Values at its heart and valuing each of God's children. As a school we are determined to be a place where individuals grow and thrive.

Approved by Chair of LAB..... date.....

Headteacher..... date.....

Review Date: September 27