

# Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) policy

Greenmount Primary School



|                            |                    |                            |
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| <b>Approved by:</b>        | The Governing Body | <b>Date:</b> November 2024 |
| <b>Last reviewed on:</b>   | September 2023     |                            |
| <b>Next review due by:</b> | September 2025     |                            |

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## 1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure:

- That children access a broad and balanced curriculum that gives them the broad range of knowledge and skills needed for good progress through school and life
- Quality and consistency in teaching and learning so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind
- A close working partnership between staff and parents and/or carers
- Every child is included and supported through equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice

## 2. Legislation

This policy is based on requirements set out in the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) that applies from September 2021](#).

## 3. Structure of the EYFS

Our Early Years provision at Greenmount consists of a 78 place Nursery (am and pm sessions) and two 30 place Reception classes. All three classes are taught by qualified teachers and supported by qualified teaching assistants. Children enter our Nursery the term after their third birthday. Parents can choose from five morning or five afternoon sessions per week, totalling 15 hours. We also offer a small number of full time places each year for parents/carers who work and have access to the 30-hour code. Reception children attend school on a full-time basis.

## 4. Curriculum

Our early years setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the latest version of the EYFS statutory framework that applies from September 2021.

The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. However, 3 areas known as the prime areas are seen as particularly important for igniting curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building children’s capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

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

#### 4.1 Planning

Staff plan activities and experiences for children that enable children to develop and learn effectively. In order to do this, staff working with the youngest children are expected to focus strongly on the 3 prime areas.

Staff also take into account the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child in their care and use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience. Where a child may have a special educational need or disability, staff consider whether specialist support is required, linking with relevant services from other agencies, where appropriate.

In planning and guiding children's activities, staff reflect on the different ways that children learn and include these in their practice.

#### 4.2 Teaching

Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play, and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities, both inside the classroom and outdoors. Staff respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction.

As children grow older, and as their development allows, the balance gradually shifts towards more adult-led activities to help children prepare for more formal learning, ready for Year 1.

### 5. Assessment

At Greenmount, ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning and development processes. Staff observe pupils to identify their level of achievement, progress and interests using the online tool 'Tapestry'. These observations are used to shape future planning. Staff also take into account observations shared by parents and/or carers through 'Tapestry'.

Within the first 6 weeks that a child **starts Reception**, staff will administer the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA). Children's progress is then tracked termly and recorded internally using our 'OTrack' system which is used throughout school. Data from this is then used to plan 'next steps' for pupils.

At the **end of the EYFS**, staff complete the EYFS profile for each child. Pupils are assessed against the 17 early learning goals, indicating whether they are:

- Meeting expected levels of development ('expected')
- Not yet reaching expected levels ('emerging')

The profile reflects ongoing observations, and discussions with parents and/or carers. The results of the profile are shared with parents and/or carers for their child.

The profile is moderated internally (referring to the Development Matters [guidance](#)) and in partnership with other local schools, to ensure consistent assessment judgements. EYFS profile data is submitted to the local authority.

### 6. Working with parents

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

Parents and/or carers are kept up to date with their child's progress and development in a number of ways. Parents have continual access to their child's learning journal through 'Tapestry'. Parent/teacher meetings occur twice per year and a written report is sent home at the end of the academic year for pupils leaving Nursery and Reception.

Each child is assigned a key person who helps to ensure that their learning and care is tailored to meet their needs. In Nursery, this may be the class teacher or a member of support staff. In Reception, this is usually the class teacher. 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.

## **7. Safeguarding and welfare procedures**

We promote good oral health, as well as good health in general, by brushing teeth daily at school and talking to children about:

- The effects of eating too many sweet things
- The importance of brushing your teeth
- The importance of a balanced diet and exercise

The rest of our safeguarding and welfare procedures are outlined in our safeguarding policy.

## **8. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed and approved by Angela Lee (Assistant Headteacher/Early Years Lead) and Lisa Dixon (Headteacher) every year.

At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

## Appendix 1. List of statutory policies and procedures for the EYFS

| Statutory policy or procedure for the EYFS                                  | Where can it be found?  |
|---|---|
| Safeguarding policy and procedures  | <a href="http://www.greenmountprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-Policy-2023-2024.pdf">http://www.greenmountprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-Policy-2023-2024.pdf</a> |
| Procedure for responding to illness   | <a href="http://www.greenmountprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Health-and-Safety-Policy-2024-2027.pdf">http://www.greenmountprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Health-and-Safety-Policy-2024-2027.pdf</a>                                 |
| Administering medicines policy  | <a href="http://www.greenmountprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Medical-Conditions-Policy-2022-2025.pdf">http://www.greenmountprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Medical-Conditions-Policy-2022-2025.pdf</a>                               |
| Emergency evacuation procedure  | <a href="http://www.greenmountprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Health-and-Safety-Policy-2024-2027.pdf">http://www.greenmountprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Health-and-Safety-Policy-2024-2027.pdf</a>                                 |
| Procedure for checking the identity of visitors                             | <a href="http://www.greenmountprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-Policy-2023-2024.pdf">http://www.greenmountprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-Policy-2023-2024.pdf</a> |
| Procedures for a parent failing to collect a child and for missing children | <a href="http://www.greenmountprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-Policy-2023-2024.pdf">http://www.greenmountprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection-Policy-2023-2024.pdf</a> |
| Procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints                          | <a href="http://www.greenmountprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Complaints-Procedure-2023-24-1.pdf">http://www.greenmountprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Complaints-Procedure-2023-24-1.pdf</a>   |