



Abbots Bromley School

1.9 Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

1Statutory Policies	1.9 Early Years Foundation Stage
ISI	A3 E6
NMS (April 15)	n/a
Author Led	Head of Prep
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Website	Yes

“Every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to their full potential. A child’s experience in the early years has a major impact on their future life chances. A secure safe and happy childhood is important in its own right, and it provides the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up. When parents choose to use early years services they want to know the provision will keep their children safe and help them to thrive. The Early Years Foundation Stage is the framework that provides that assurance.”

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of the reception year. In our school, all children may join us from the term in which they are three, usually on a part-time basis. Staff and parents work together to make the right choice for each individual child. They begin attending school full time at the start of the academic year in which they turn five.

The EYFS is based upon four principles:

- A Unique Child
- Positive Relationships
- Enabling Environments
- Learning and Development

A Unique Child

At Abbots Bromley Preparatory School we recognise that every child is a competent learner who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. We recognise that children develop in individual ways, at varying rates. Children’s attitudes and dispositions to learning are influenced by feedback from others; we use praise and encouragement, as well as celebration/ sharing assemblies and rewards, to encourage children to develop a positive attitude to learning. Each pupil is placed in one of four ‘Houses’ which gives them an identity within the whole school.

Inclusion

We value the diversity of individuals within the school and do not discriminate against children because of differences. All children at Abbots Bromley Preparatory School are treated fairly regardless of race, religion or abilities. All children and their families are valued within our school.

In our school we believe that all our children matter. We give our children every opportunity to achieve their best. We do this by taking account of our children’s range of life experiences when planning for their learning.

In the EYFS we set realistic and challenging expectations that meet the needs of our children. We achieve this by planning to meet the needs of boys and girls, children with special educational needs, children who are more able, children with disabilities, children from all social and cultural backgrounds, children of different ethnic groups and those from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

We meet the needs of all our children through:

- planning opportunities that build upon and extend children's knowledge, experience and interests, and develop their self-esteem and confidence;
- using a wide range of teaching strategies based on children's learning needs;
- providing a wide range of opportunities to motivate and support children and to help them to learn effectively;
- providing a safe and supportive learning environment in which the contribution of all children is valued;
- using resources which reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping;
- planning challenging activities for children whose ability and understanding are in advance of their language and communication skills;
- monitoring children's progress and taking action to provide support as necessary.

It is important to us that all children in the school are safe. We aim to educate children on boundaries, rules and limits and to help them understand why they exist. We provide children with choices to help them develop this important life skill. Children should be allowed to take risks, but need to be taught how to recognise and avoid hazards. Children are supervised by qualified staff with regard to regulatory staff: pupil ratios.

We aim to protect the physical and psychological well-being of all children. (See Whole School Safeguarding Children Policy).

Welfare

"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."

At Abbots Bromley Preparatory School we understand that we are legally required to comply with certain welfare requirements as stated in the Early Years Foundation Stage Handbook, October 2016. We understand that we are required to:

- promote the welfare of children.
- promote good health, preventing the spread of infection and taking appropriate action when children are ill.
- manage behaviour effectively in a manner appropriate for the children's stage of development and individual needs.
- ensure all adults who look after the children or who have unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.
- Ensure that the premises, furniture and equipment is safe and suitable for purpose
- Ensure that every child receives enjoyable and challenging learning and development experiences tailored to meet their needs.
- Maintain records, policies and procedures required for safe efficient management of the setting and to meet the needs of the children.

We endeavour to meet all these requirements.

Positive Relationships

At Abbots Bromley Preparatory School we recognise that children learn to be strong and independent from secure relationships. We aim to develop caring, respectful, professional relationships with the children **and** their families.

Parents as Partners

We recognise that parents are children's first and most enduring educators and we value the contribution they make.

We recognise the role that parents have played, and their future role, in educating the children. We do this through:

- talking to parents about their child before their child starts in our school;
- the children have the opportunity to spend time with their teacher before starting school during 'Taster Days' and 'Moving Up Day';
- inviting all parents to an induction meeting during the term before their child starts school;
- offering parents regular opportunities to talk about their child's progress and allowing free access to the children's 'Learning Journey' profiles;
- encouraging parents to talk to the child's teacher if there are any concerns. There is a formal meeting for parents each term at which the teacher and the parent discuss the child's progress in private with the teacher. Parents receive a report on their child's attainment and progress as set out in the school's Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy;
- arranging a range of activities throughout the year that encourage collaboration between child, school and parents: Curriculum Workshops, Merit assemblies, Art Day, a variety of concerts, Sports Day etc;
- providing parents with an opportunity for a written response on their child's progress each term.

All staff involved with the EYFS aim to develop good relationships with all children, interacting positively with them and taking time to listen to them. At our school the Reception Teacher acts as 'Key Person' to the children in Reception, with the Kindergarten Leader acting as 'Key Person' to the children in the Kindergarten (3 and 4 years old).

We are developing good links with other local Nurseries. The Head of Prep is making links and, if a child joins from a Nursery, visits the child at that Nursery before they start school if possible. Staff and children from link Nurseries are invited to some school events. Where children continue to attend provision at another setting, whilst only attending school part time, we aim to ensure continuity and coherence by sharing information about the children's achievements.

Enabling Environments

At Abbots Bromley Preparatory School we recognise that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending the children's development. This begins by observing the children and assessing their interests, development and learning, before planning challenging but achievable activities and experiences to extend the children's learning.

Observation, Assessment and Planning

The Planning within the EYFS is based around half-termly themes. These plans are used by the EYFS practitioners as a guide for weekly planning; however the practitioners may alter these plans in response to the needs, achievements and interests of the children. This will be indicated on weekly planning.

We make regular assessments of children's learning and we use this information to ensure that future planning reflects identified needs. Assessment in the EYFS takes the form of observation, and this involves the EYFS practitioners and other adults as appropriate. These observations are recorded in children's individual Foundation Stage profiles. They also contain information provided by parents and other settings.

At Abbots Bromley Preparatory School, we record judgements against the EYFS Profile when required to do so by Staffordshire LA. Each child's level of development is recorded against the assessment scales derived from the seven areas of learning and development.

In addition, we use PIPs assessments at the start and end of Reception (Performance Indicators in Primary Schools). These standardised assessments enable us to monitor and identify individuals' specific strengths and weaknesses throughout their time at our school, across the Key Stages.

Within the final term of the EYFS, we provide a written summary to parents, reporting their progress against the seventeen ELGs and assessment scales. We give a reasonable opportunity for the parents to discuss these judgements with the EYFS teachers.

The Learning Environment

The EYFS classroom is organised to allow children to explore and learn securely and safely. There are areas where the children can be active, be quiet and rest. The classroom is set up in learning areas, where children are able to find and locate equipment and resources independently. The EYFS class has its own enclosed outdoor area within the school's main play area. This has a positive effect on the children's development. Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors. It allows the children to explore, use their senses and be physically active and exuberant. We plan activities and resources for the children to access outdoors that help the children to develop in all seven areas of learning.

Learning and Development

At Abbots Bromley Preparatory School we recognise that children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates. We value all areas of learning and development equally and understand that they are inter-connected.

Teaching and Learning Style

Our policy on teaching and learning defines the features of effective teaching and learning in our school. These features apply to teaching and learning in the EYFS just as much as they do to the teaching in Key Stages 1 and 2. Features that relate to the EYFS are:

- the partnership between teachers and parents, so that our children feel secure at school and develop a sense of well-being and achievement;
- the understanding that teachers have of how children develop and learn, and how this affects their teaching;
- the range of approaches used that provide first-hand experiences, give clear explanations, make appropriate interventions and extend and develop play and talk or other means of communication;
- the carefully planned curriculum that helps children work towards the Early Learning Goals throughout EYFS;
- the provision for children to take part in activities that build on and extend their interests and develop their intellectual, physical, social and emotional abilities;
- the encouragement for children to communicate and talk about their learning, and to develop independence and self-management;
- the support for learning with appropriate and accessible indoor and outdoor space, facilities and equipment;
- the identification of the progress and future learning needs of children through observations, which are shared with parents;
- the good relationships between our school and the settings that our children experience prior to joining our school;

Playing and Exploring

“Children’s play reflects their wide ranging and varied interests and preoccupations. In their play children learn at their highest level. Play with peers is important for children’s development.”

Through play our children explore and develop learning experiences, which help them make sense of the world. They practise and build up ideas, and learn how to control themselves and understand the need for rules. They have the opportunity to think creatively alongside other children as well as on their own. They communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems. They express fears or re-live anxious experiences in controlled and safe situations.

Active Learning

“Children learn best through physical and mental challenges. Active learning involves other people, objects, ideas and events that engage and involve children for sustained periods.”

Active learning occurs when children are motivated and interested. Children need to have some independence and control over their learning. As children develop their confidence they learn to make decisions. It provides children with a sense of satisfactions as they take ownership of their learning.

Creativity and Critical Thinking

“When children have opportunities to play with ideas in different situations and with a variety of resources, they discover connections and come to new and better understandings and ways of doing things. Adult support in this process enhances their ability to think critically and ask questions.”

Children should be given opportunity to be creative through all areas of learning, not just through the arts. Adults can support children’s thinking and help them to make connections by showing genuine interest, offering encouragement, clarifying ideas and asking open questions. Children can access resources freely and are allowed to move them around the classroom to extend their learning.

Areas of Learning

The EYFS is made up of seven areas of learning and development:

The three prime areas are:

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

The four specific areas are:

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

The four specific areas are delivered with the three prime areas at the centre of the planning. All areas are delivered through a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities. In each area there are Early Learning Goals (ELGs) that define the expectations for most children to reach by the end of the EYFS, making a total of seventeen. Children are judged to be meeting expected levels of development, or if they are exceeding expected levels, or not yet reaching expected levels (emerging). This forms the EYFS Profile.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of the EYFS staff to follow the principles stated in this policy. The Head of Prep will carry out monitoring on the EYFS as part of the whole school monitoring schedule.

Wendy Gordon, Head of Abbots Bromley Preparatory School

Date: June 2017