



# PRESTFELDE

## **EYFS Policy**

September 2021

## 1. Aims Intent

**Intent:** At Prestfelde School we offer a curriculum rich in wonder and memorable experiences. we aim to 'Make Learning Irresistible' We work hard to provide a stimulating environment that provides exciting opportunities both indoors and outdoors to visits and visitors, promotes challenge, exploration, adventure and a real love of learning.

It is our **intent** that all children develop physically, verbally, cognitively and emotionally in an environment which values all cultures, communities and people. We aim for our children to feel valued and loved in school, to be confident and independent, to believe in themselves and interact positively with others.

We understand that play is an integral part of learning and this is at the heart of our early years curriculum.

We believe that the balance of adult directed and uninterrupted child-initiated play ensures the best outcomes for pupils.

We pride ourselves upon building warm and positive relationships between staff and children, consistent routines and strong relationships with parents are key.

We recognise the crucial role that early year's education has to play in providing firm foundations upon which the rest of a child's education is successfully based.

This policy aims to ensure:

- We aspire to support and promote children's holistic growth and development, with each child realizing and exceeding their full potential.
- The dignity, worth and uniqueness of each individual, both adult and child, is respected.
- We appreciate childhood as a unique and valuable stage of life and are aware that the quality of childhood has lifelong consequences.
- The child-family bond is of primary importance, and parents/carers have primary responsibility for the child. We value partnerships with parents.
- Children are understood and supported in terms of their family, culture and wider community. Diversity is celebrated.
- We are all committed to equipping children with an inner moral compass based on Christian values, empowering them to take the lead and navigate life with honesty, compassion and confidence.
- Children are citizens who will make a valuable contribution to society and have a right to a voice in issues which affect them. It is our role, together with parents, to prepare the next generation of global leaders for the unknown future.
- The well-being of the child is paramount. Where there are competing priorities, early years' professionals act as advocates for the child based on sound pedagogical principles.
- Relationships based on trust and respect are central to the child's emotional and physical health and learning.
- Children are active, capable learners, through exploration, play, talk and interacting with environment and with others.
- Good practice sees the child as central to the direction, pace and content of their learning.
- We are committed to ensuring that children are safe and healthy, make positive contributions, enjoy and achieve.
- We are committed to reflecting on our practice, continuing to develop our knowledge and evolving understanding of our pedagogy.

## 2. Legislation

September 2021 we will be following and adhering to the new [Statutory Framework for the EYFS 1st September 2021](#)

Admission to Nursery (FS1)

Children may be admitted to Nursery following their third birthday.

New children will be invited to attend a taster session in the term prior to admission.

Session Times

At Prestfelde each child is eligible to receive the government universal offer of up to 15 hours of 'Free Entitlement' per week. Children between the age of three years up to and including the term in which they are five, are eligible to receive three hours of 'Free Entitlement' for each morning booked to attend.

'Free Entitlement' funding is calculated on a daily basis, based on the number of days booked to attend each term, and the number of school weeks per term – so it will vary each term depending on the length of the term. The funding amount is included in the termly bill as a 'credit' against the school fees. The 'net' amount of school fees should be paid in advance by the first day of each term.

Monday to Friday            08.30 to 12.30 (Nursery funding eligibility)

Lunch                            11.45 to 12.30

Afternoon session        12:30 to 15:30

After School Care session available until 18.00 (within Little Prestfelde.)

Reception (FS2) – session times

Monday – Friday Children are expected to arrive between 8:20 and 8:30am ready to start lessons at 8:30am.

The end of the school day is 3:30pm.

A full Fee Structure can be found on the school website ([www.prestfelde.co.uk](http://www.prestfelde.co.uk))

## 4. Curriculum - Implementation

September 2021 we will adhere and follow the expectations of the new EYFS Framework 2021.

The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and interconnected. However, 3 areas known as the prime areas are appreciated 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

In addition to these areas of learning, we strive for our children to develop effective characteristics of learning which will enable them to become learners for life.

Children will **play and explore** their environment showing engagement by:

- finding out and exploring
- play with what they know
- be willing to 'have a go'

Children will be **active learners**, showing motivation by:

- being involved and concentrating
- keeping on trying
- enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Children will be creators and think critically by:

- having their own ideas
- making links
- choosing ways to do things

As adults we support our children by:

- fostering a desire to learn by nurturing active questioning and an awareness of the world around them.
- encouraging children to express their thoughts and ideas in a variety of situations.
- helping children to become competent speakers and listeners.
- developing confidence by praising success and encouraging effort.
- learning through play and experience learning first hand.

I hear, I forget

I see, I remember

I do, I understand

## **Values**

A core part of Early years learning at Prestfelde is based on teaching children from a young age about the importance of using Values in their own lives. Through Values based learning in assemblies and taught sessions, children are given the means to use Values to drive their thinking and behaviour.

This supports pupils with beliefs about themselves, their actions, relationships and positive behaviour.

As a Christian based Woodard school pupils also have many experiences which are delivered using Christian values and this is a strong ethos within Early years teaching and learning which is reflected across the whole school.

## **Learning Behaviours – Characteristics of Learning**

Throughout our continuous learning environment, the importance of developing the skills of an effective learner are fostered and encouraged throughout use of our woodland animals.

Children will explore learning behaviour characters linked to the whole school 'SECRET to success. Developing their understanding of how to become learners for life and become part of a school community.

Hello I am Tough Tortoise  (*I am Resilient*)

I don't give up easily and I like to be challenged  
I just try, try, try, again  
I use my shell to build up my 'ignore muscles', so I don't get distracted when I am learning  
I talk to myself and say 'I can do it'  
I also say 'Hocus Pocus Let Us Focus'  
I keep going even when the learning gets 'tough'

Hello I am Sensible Squirrel  (***I am Ready and Resourceful***)

I am good at finding the things I need to do a job  
I like to use my 'imagining' eye  
I try to find out things for myself and I think a lot about what things I might need  
I also know where to go to find the things that help me with my learning  
I make links with what I have learnt before to help me learn new things and I use a step by step way of learning  
I ask questions and I am curious to find out more

Hello I am Wise Owl  (***I am Reflective***)

I think back to the learning I have done before  
I think about ways to get around 'being stuck' with my learning  
I am good at planning my learning and know how I learn best  
I like to think about things I already know so this will help with my new learning  
I can review and change what I do to get better  
I like to talk about the progress I am making and how I am getting better at learning

Hello we are Team Ant  (***We show Reciprocity and Respect***)

We are good listeners  
We can work well together in a team  
We help each other with tasks and we remember to take turns  
We try to imagine what it might be like to be each other and to understand one another's feelings  
We are also good at working on our own  
Sometimes we learn by watching how others do something.

#### 4.1 Implementation

##### Implementation

At Prestfelde School we meet the welfare requirements laid down in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage and actively safeguard and promote the welfare of all of our children.

We prioritise creating a 'language rich' environment through the use of songs, nursery rhymes, stories and providing time for quality interactions between adults and between peers. Trained staff ensure that interactions are positive and progressive, allowing children to flourish and gather words at pace in order to become confident communicators.

Children are encouraged to become early readers through enjoyment of books and the systematic teaching of phonics. The children learn nursery rhymes and develop their mathematical thinking through direct teaching and exploration. We want our children to become confident mathematicians who can apply what they have learnt to real life experiences.

We have built our school environment to enable our children to strengthen their core muscles through physical play, children spend time outdoors in their natural environment in all weathers. They develop through wonderful, exploratory, sensory experiences in our mud kitchen, sandpit and taking part in Forest School sessions.

Our learning environment is adaptable in order to reflect children's interests and progression. The children are supported to learn to work together, manage their feelings and ask questions through skilled adult facilitated play.

The curriculum is taught through broad topics which are enriched responsively with enhancements directly from the children's fascinations and interests. Trips and visitors are planned to explore and value our community and immerse the children within real contextual learning experiences.

Topics are supported by quality key texts. These are chosen carefully to encourage children's speech, language and communication development. All planning however, is flexible and responsive to children's needs so plans can be changed and adapted dependent on children's interests.

We understand the importance of parental engagement and believe that our parents have a crucial role to play in their children's education, being their first and most enduring educators. We work hard to create strong partnerships between home and school. Parents receive knowledge organisers each half term to inform them of what their child is learning each half term and to explain how they can support this at home. Observations are made to show key learning between practitioners and parents, who enjoy using Tapestry to engage in their child's learning and share experiences from home.

As part of the learning and teaching process, children are assessed termly in relation to their progress towards the Early Learning Goals. These judgements are made on the basis of accumulative observations and in depth knowledge of the children acquired through ongoing formative assessment. These ongoing assessments are used to inform planning and next steps in teaching and learning for all children throughout the year.

### **Unique child**

We pride ourselves in providing the best possible start to a child's education. All children within the early years learn through play: exploring their surroundings; and, developing their characteristics for learning, with support from attentive and experienced adults.

Each child is considered 'unique' and their individual learning is catered for within the natural beauty of the Prestfelde environment.

## Positive Relationships

We believe it is vitally important to develop a partnership between all the adults involved with each child. By working together, we can provide knowledge of the 'whole child' to assist their future learning and needs.

Positive relationships are key to every child's education. We pride ourselves in developing excellent working relationships with parents, understanding their role as first and most enduring educators of their children. And with the children by helping them to share, care and learn together.

## Enabling Environment

- We provide a stimulating 'enabling environment' both indoors and out.
- We provide a rich multi-sensory learning environment where children can experiment and explore through firsthand experiences, encouraging a sense of awe and wonder, whilst being able to ask questions and solve problems.
- We provide a safe, welcoming, emotional environment where children may be helped to exceed their potential.
- We develop children's independence, self-belief, confidence and a positive growth mind set.

## Learning and Development

Staff plan activities and experiences for children that enable children to develop and learn effectively. In order to do this, practitioners 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. See Support for Learning Policy.

In planning and guiding children's activities, practitioners 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 a focus upon holistic enquiry, planned, purposeful play, and a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. As educators we look for creative ways to capture children's natural curiosity and shape their exploration in meaningful and purposeful contexts.

Practitioners are responsive to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their learning and development through warm, positive and focussed 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.

*'Children at play are able to stay flexible, respond to events and changing situations, be sensitive to people, to adapt, think on their feet, and keep altering what they do in a fast-moving scene. When the process of play is rich, it can lead children into creating rich products in their stories, paintings, dances, music making, drawings, sculptures and constructions, or in the solving of scientific and mathematical problems.'* (Bruce, 2001, p.46)

## **5. Impact - Assessment**

Our curriculum and its delivery ensure that children, from their own starting points make excellent progress. We believe our high standards are due to our carefully planned environment, enriched play-based curriculum, quality first teaching and the rigour of assessment

We teach literacy and maths to a high standard and children make excellent progress throughout the EYFS. We treat every child as an individual and are committed to the development of the 'whole child'. We want children to enter KS1 happy, self-assured, independent learners with a thirst to learn and the confidence to know that they can do anything they want to do and that we will support them on their journey

### **Baseline**

At Prestfelde School, ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning and development processes. Staff observe pupils to identify their level of achievement, interests and learning styles. These observations are used to shape future planning. Practitioners also take into account observations shared by parents and/or carers.

When a child enters school, they are 3 years old. To ensure that we have a good understanding of their learning and development, we request the written summary of the child's development in the 3 prime areas. This 'progress check' highlights the areas in which a child is progressing well and the areas in which additional support is needed. This is completed between the ages of 2 and 3 years old.

Once a child has settled into school, we then observe and complete an on-entry assessment. This informs our AP1 within iTrack.

This first assessment is a snapshot of all the prime areas of learning alongside Literacy and Maths attainment.

There are three further assessment points at the end of each term to support the identification of attainment, but also the gaps for further support and learning.

Throughout each child's time within the Early Years, a learning journey is compiled to celebrate achievements and independent evidence of attainment throughout the EYFS referencing development matters and the Early Learning Goals. To support the compilation of each learning journey and to enable us to celebrate children's achievements with their parents, we use an on-line learning journey called 'Tapestry'.

This enables us to focus upon the process of learning as well as the outcome, linking holistically to all elements of learning and development, alongside the characteristics of learning.

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:

Not yet reaching expected levels (Emerging)

Meeting expected levels of development (Expected)

This year there will be no exceeding judgement but we will be looking to support all children to their unique next steps in learning. If these are beyond the EYFS then we will look to plan for progress into Year 1.

The profile reflects ongoing observations and discussions with parents and/or carers. The results of the profile are then shared with parents and/or carers as well as the local authority.

Progress meetings are planned termly with teacher's, key people and SENCO's, to discuss and moderate children's attainment and consider support, interventions or further challenge.

## **6. Working with parents**

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

Parents and/or carers are kept up to date with their child's progress and development on a daily basis through Tapestry but also have termly reports with targets to support their next steps and in conjunction with these

reports parents are invited to attend termly parents consultations, this helps to provide parents and/or carers with a well-rounded picture of their child's knowledge, understanding and abilities.

In addition to this we offer parents workshops each term to support their understanding of child development and teaching and learning.

We are responsive to the parents needs and requests throughout the year. Currently, we provide workshops to support-

- Phonics
- Mark making into writing
- Maths

### **Key Person**

Each child is assigned a key person who helps to ensure that their learning and care is tailored to meet their needs. 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.

The key person role is a central priority in providing consistency for children within their care and learning.

In addition, one secondary adult (buddy) will be identified to enable continuity and limit the number of adults relating closely to a child in the absence of the key person.

As well as providing close care on a daily basis to build a secure relationship for the child, the key person is responsible for maintaining observations of each child's interests, fascinations within their independent play.

Whenever possible the key person, or a secondary adult (a buddy), greets the parent/carer and child on arrival, and when a child is collected to share information about the night before or the child's day in Nursery celebrating their achievements and interests.

This philosophy and role of a consistent 'special person' continues throughout Little Prestfelde and once a child moves into FS2 their teacher takes on this role.

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

Our safeguarding and welfare procedures are outlined in our safeguarding policy.

## **8. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed and approved by Emma Thelwell, Deputy Head Academic alongside EYFS practitioners every year or in the event of further enhancements or changes.

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

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

This checklist lists the policies and procedures that we must have according the EYFS statutory framework.

Statutory policy or procedure for the EYFS	Where can it be found?
Safeguarding policy and procedures	See safeguarding policy
Procedure for responding to illness	See health and safety policy
Administering medicines policy	See supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
Emergency evacuation procedure	See health and safety policy
Procedure for checking the identity of visitors	See safeguarding policy
Procedures for a parent failing to collect a child and for missing children	See safeguarding policy
Procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints	See complaints policy

APPROVED DATE	1st September, 2021		
REVIEW DATE	1st September 2022		
SIGNED HEAD		PRINT NAME	Fiona Orchard
SIGNED CHAIR OF GOVERNORS		PRINT NAME	Rex Sartain