



# The Early Years Foundation Stage [EYFS]

Dunbury Academy Primary School

2025-2026

# EYFS Curriculum Intent

At Dunbury Academy Primary School, we provide a high-quality EYFS education giving children a secure and confident start to their school life. We are committed to nurturing a lifelong love of learning alongside the aims of the EYFS statutory framework. We strive for high-standards, consider the development of the whole child and seek to foster resilience and independence.

We carefully plan the essential knowledge that children need to prepare them for their future success, to give children the best possible start to their early education.

We provide inviting classroom environments indoors and outdoors to stimulate learners and engage them in developing the three 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' as set out within the EYFS.

## **Staffing & Organisation**

At Dunbury Academy, we have one Reception class and an adjoining Pre School. They are collectively known as Beech Class. Our current cohort is 20 Reception children (PAN) and small numbers in our Pre School on each day.

EYFS class teacher and lead: Mrs Joanna Stoker

EYFS class teaching assistant: Mrs Annette Rowley

Early Years Practitioner (Pre School) - Mrs Maree Hiscock

Early Years Apprentice (Pre School) - Mr Oran Lyons

The EYFS curriculum encompasses our school motto...

**Strength in difference, together we are one, together we fly high.**

Our EYFS curriculum is planned to meet the following aims:

- Foster a love of learning which inspires curiosity.
- Provide experiences of awe and wonder.
- Ensure all children have access to high quality learning opportunities.
- Provide parents/carers with the opportunity to develop their child's learning at home.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the community and wider world.

# Implementation

- Quality first teaching across all areas of the curriculum.
- Stimulating learning environments indoors and outdoors.
- Well planned and organised continuous provision which allows the children to learn through play.
- A carefully planned balance of adult-led and child-initiated learning opportunities.
- We promote a love of learning through real life experiences and opportunities to build on prior learning.
- Close links with local nurseries where children may attend more than one setting, which supports a smooth and settled transition into school.
- Strong parental partnerships which empower parents to support their child's learning at home.
- Systematic approaches to teaching reading to ensure all children learn to read. High quality phonics teaching is started as soon as children begin reception.
- Opportunities for children and families to develop a love of reading.
- Planned opportunities for outdoor learning through 'Forest Schools' and in the outdoor classroom.

# Impact

- ✓ High levels of engagement and motivation demonstrated from children which supports them to become lifelong learners.
- ✓ Confident and capable readers who demonstrate a love of reading.
- ✓ Evidence of strong school and parent partnership links.
- ✓ Children demonstrate the characteristics of effective learning and are well prepared for the next stage in their learning.
- ✓ Children feel happy and safe and enjoy coming to school.
- ✓ All children access a balanced and challenging curriculum regardless of their background, needs or abilities.
- ✓ Children make strong progress from their starting points and are offered a broad curriculum which meets each child's unique needs.
- ✓ Children are supported by adults that are well trained and passionate about providing the best education for every child.

# Learning in the EYFS

## Play, Scaffolding, Modelling, Observing, Guided Learning, Direct Teaching

In our classroom, you may see children playing alone or with their peers, deciding on resources and choosing how to spend their time. You may see a child playing and listening to an adult, who is modelling how to achieve something or teaching a new skill that interests the child.

Adults may scaffold a child's play. This involves taking their play to higher levels of learning, entering the play as a co-creator and helping to provoke a framework for the children to go from "what they know" to "what else they could know". Scaffolding enables a child to solve a problem, carry out a task or achieve a goal which is just beyond his or her abilities. During play, where foundational social and emotional skills are developed, scaffolding is a bridge to new skill levels using three key ingredients; modelling the skill, giving clues and asking questions while the child is trying out a new skill, and then as the child approaches mastery, withdrawing the support.

The EYFS statutory framework does not prescribe a particular teaching approach.

"Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults."

At Dunbury Academy, the EYFS lead carefully plans what the children learn in the classroom and through provision enables them to learn from their interests, alongside extending their knowledge and understanding through direct teaching.

Each day, we stimulate children's interests, respond to each child's emerging needs and guide their development through warm, positive interactions coupled with secure routines for play and learning.

As the children develop and their skills progress throughout the reception year, we use more direct teaching and modelling and plan specific sequences of lessons. These strategies help us to focus on teaching the essential skills and knowledge in the specific areas of learning so that the children can develop the skills and confidence required for key Stage One, and beyond.

# Seven Key Features of Effective Practice

## The best for every child

- At Dunbury Academy, children will be given an equal chance of success.
- We ensure that all children have access to high-quality early education. We pay particular attention to those children from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure we can 'narrow the gap'.
- We provide high-quality early education and care which is inclusive for all children. Children's special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are identified quickly. All children promptly receive any extra help they need, so they can progress well in their learning.

## High-quality care

- Our practitioners ensure the children's experience is the central focus of thinking.
- We ensure our young children are well cared for to enable them to thrive.
- High-quality care is consistent. All practitioners enjoy spending time with young children and this is reflected in their interactions with children.
- Practitioners are responsive to children and ensure they form effective and positive relationships with all children.
- Practitioners support children to develop their independence.

# Seven Key Features of Effective Practice

## The curriculum

- The curriculum is well planned to ensure we identify what we want the children to learn, and why now.
- We ensure planning helps every child to develop their language skills.
- The curriculum is ambitious. Careful sequencing will help children to build their learning over time.
- Planning is flexible to ensure children's interests are used to drive the children's learning and development.
- We ensure that depth in early learning is achieved through spending time embedding the children's learning.

## Pedagogy

- Every child is enabled to make progress in their learning, with the right help.
- We utilise different approaches to learning to ensure all children make progress. Children learn through play, by adults modelling, by observing each other, and through guided learning and direct teaching.
- Practitioners carefully organise enabling environments for high-quality play.
- Children in our early years also learn through group work, when practitioners guide their learning.
- As the children develop throughout the year, they are given more guided learning.
- We have a well-planned learning environment, indoors and outdoors.

# Seven Key Features of Effective Practice

## Assessment

- Assessments are completed to inform planning and support the practitioners in identifying children who need additional support.
- Assessment is based upon a secure knowledge of child development.
- Practitioners have a clear expectation about what children need to know and how best to support them in developing their learning.
- Accurate assessment is used to highlight whether a child has a special educational need or needs extra help.
- Learning Journals of photos, and drawings are used in Pre School as a valuable tool to record experiences and learning. Parents are invited into the setting half-termly to share these with their child.
- In Reception, children's work is displayed on their individual clip-boards and these are shared half-termly with families.

## Self-regulation

As part of our 'Personal, Social, Emotional Development' teaching provision we support each child's ability to:

- ❖ focus their attention
- ❖ think flexibly
- ❖ inhibit impulsive behaviour.

These abilities contribute to the child's growing ability to self-regulate:

- ❖ concentrate their thinking
- ❖ plan what to do next
- ❖ monitor what they are doing and adapt
- ❖ regulate strong feelings
- ❖ be patient for what they want
- ❖ bounce back when things get difficult.

# Seven Key Features of Effective Practice

## Building strong partnership with parents

- We ensure that parents/carers have a strong and respectful partnership in the early years which enables children to thrive.
- We listen regularly to parents and give parents clear information about their children's progress through face-to-face opportunities.
- Parents are encouraged to support their child's learning and development at home as this has a significant impact on their child's learning.
- We take the time to 'get to know' and understand the children and their families enabling us to offer support as needed.
- The EY Lead meets with every parent before they start in PreSchool and Reception. This provides a strong understanding of the needs of every child as they settle into the environment.
- Parents/carers are given the opportunity throughout the year to engage with school during the day (class assemblies, church services, open mornings etc).
- Parents/carers are fully involved in their child's learning and development through the use of weekly emails giving an overview of key learning objectives.
- Parents are invited into school for regular parent's evenings to provide an update about their child's learning and progress.
- Children with SEND or additional needs have in-depth 'shared conversations' to ensure targets and progress are shared.
- We are flexible in our approach to communicating with parents/carers and adapt our communication methods to suit different preferences.

# EYFS Statutory Framework

## Areas of Learning and Development

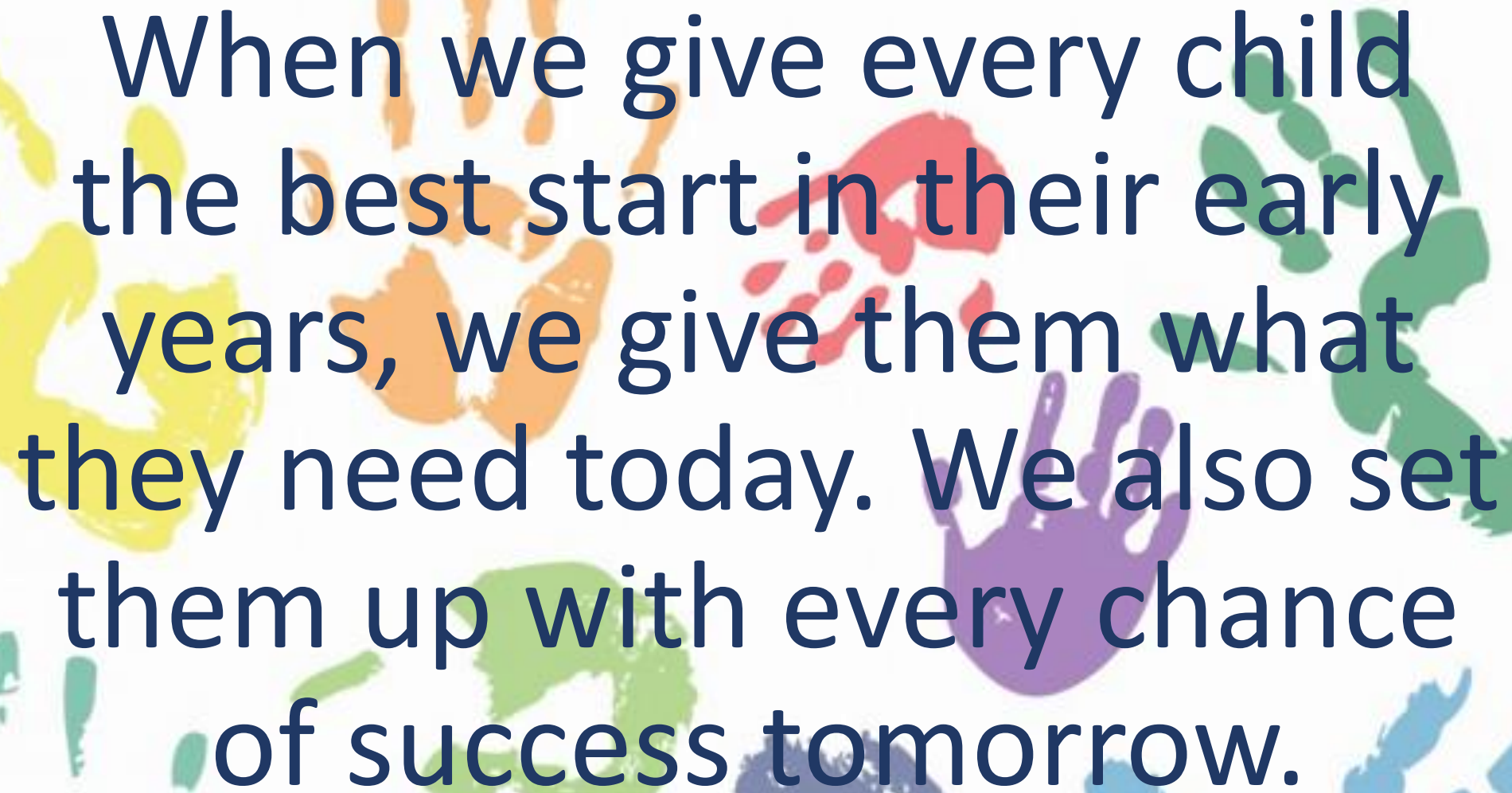
Characteristics of Effective Learning describe behaviours children use in order to learn. To learn well, children must approach opportunities with curiosity, energy and enthusiasm. Effective learning must be meaningful to a child, so that they are able to use what they have learned and apply it in new situations. These abilities and attitudes of strong learners will support them to learn well and make good progress in all the Areas of Learning and Development.

The three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- Playing and exploring – children investigate and experience things, and ‘have a go’.
- Active learning – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements.
- Creating and thinking critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.



Prime areas of development and learning lay vital foundations in the early years. The three prime areas are: **Communication and Language**, **PSED** and **Physical Development**. The four specific areas are: **Literacy**, **Mathematics**, **Understanding the World**, **Expressive Arts and Design** which build on the development gained through the prime areas.



When we give every child  
the best start in their early  
years, we give them what  
they need today. We also set  
them up with every chance  
of success tomorrow.

Development Matters [DfE, 2021]