



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Policy

Adopted by the Performance and Standards committee January 14th 2014

Revised and updated February 15th 2017

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of the Reception year. At Long Lawford Primary School, children join the Nursery Class in the school year that they turn four and join the Reception Class in the school year that they turn five. In partnership with parents and carers we enable the children to begin the process of becoming active learners for life.

We endeavour to ensure that children "learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe." We aim to support children in their learning through "teaching and experiences that gives children the broad range of skills that provide the right foundation for good progress through school and in life." (Statutory Framework for the EYFS 2012)

The EYFS is based upon four principles:

- **A unique child** - developing resilient, capable, confident and self-assured individuals.
- **Positive relationships** - supporting the children in becoming strong and independent.
- **Enabling environments** - where opportunities and experiences respond to the individual needs of the child by developing a strong partnership between practitioners, parents/carers and the child.
- **Learning and developing** - An acknowledgement that children learn in different ways and at different rates

A Unique Child

At Long Lawford 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.

Inclusion/Special Educational Needs (SEN)

All children and their families are valued at Long Lawford Primary School. Children are treated as individuals and have equal access to all provisions available. All children are encouraged to achieve their personal best and planning is adapted to meet the needs of all groups and abilities. Assessments take into account contributions from a range of perspectives to ensure that any child with potential special educational needs is identified at the earliest possible opportunity. Early identification of special needs is crucial to enable staff to support the development of each child. Concerns are always discussed with parents/carers at an early stage and the schools SENco is called upon for further information and advice. Appropriate steps are taken in accordance with the school's Inclusion policy for SEN.

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.

Welfare

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

“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 Long Lawford Primary School we understand that we are legally required to comply with certain welfare requirements as stated in the Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage 2012. We understand that we are required to:

- Promote the welfare and safeguarding 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.

Positive Relationships

At Long Lawford we recognise that children learn to be strong 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:

- Home visiting all children at the start of their time in our Foundation Stage.
- Providing a range of information for both parents and children to aid transition into our school.
- Talking to parents about their child before their child starts in our school;
- The children/parents/carers have the opportunity to spend time with their teacher before starting school during planned induction sessions.
- Providing an information evening for parents, before the beginning of each school year.
- Support children through the transition from pre-school to Reception with the children building up their time in school over a two week period.
- Offering parents time to talk about their child's progress and encouraging the sharing of 'Learning journeys' informally.

- There are also two formal meetings (Autumn and Spring term) when parents can discuss with the class teacher their child's progress and development.
- Encouraging parents to talk to the child's teacher if they have any concerns at the earliest convenience.
- Arranging a range of activities throughout the year that encourage collaboration between child, school and parents: celebration assemblies, school visits, sharing of learning journeys.
- Providing parents an opportunity to celebrate their child's learning and development by recognising home achievements in their learning journeys'.
- Half termly class newsletters to inform parents of learning in school.

At Long Lawford the Foundation Stage Unit is staffed by a range of adults, these staff aim to develop good relationships with all children, interacting positively with them and taking time to listen to them. However, the class teacher retains overall responsibility for the children in their class.

Enabling Environments

At Long Lawford we recognise that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending the children's development. We ensure that we create an attractive and stimulating learning environment where children feel confident and secure and challenged. The children have daily access to an indoor and outdoor environment that is set up in discrete areas of learning with planned continuous provision. Planning for the whole environment is linked to observations of children and knowledge of next steps for individual/groups of children.

Learning and Development

Teachers and teaching assistants provide the curriculum up to a class size of 26 children in FS1 and 30 children in FS2.

There are seven areas of learning and development of which three are "prime areas," and four "specific areas."

The prime areas are

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development.

The specific areas are

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the world and

- Expressive arts and design

Through careful assessments and observations, including information provided by parents and other settings, children's development levels are assessed. The balance will shift towards a more equal focus on all areas of learning as children grow in confidence and ability within the three prime areas. However, if a child's progress in any prime area gives cause for concern, staff will discuss this with the child's parents and/or carers and agree how to support the child. This may also include a discussion with the SENco in order to access Special Educational Needs support.

At Long Lawford "each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity. Play is used as an essential part children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults. There is an on-going judgement to be made by staff about the balance between activities led by children, and activities led or guided by adults. Staff must 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, it is expected that the balance will gradually shift towards more activities led by adults, to help children prepare for more formal learning, ready for Year 1." (Statutory Framework for EYFS 2012)

Planning and guided children's activities will reflect on the different ways that children learn and reflect these in their practice. At Long Lawford we support children in using the three characteristics of effective teaching and learning. These 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; and
- **Creating and Thinking Critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

(Taken from statutory framework for the EYFS 2012)

Religious Education is also taught in the reception classes in accordance with Warwickshire guidelines.

In line with the EYFS statutory framework 2012, at Long Lawford we undertake to:

- Provide fresh drinking water is available at all times
- Ensure children's' dietary needs are recorded and acted upon when required

- Ensure a first aid box is accessible at all times and a record of accidents and injuries is kept (see accident and injury policy). Some of our Teaching assistants are paediatric First Aid trained.
- Follow a health and safety policy and procedures which cover identifying, reporting and dealing with accidents, hazards and faulty equipment.
- Follow a fire and emergency evacuation procedure and policy
- Follow a safeguarding policy

Transition

From Pre-school /Feeder settings

During the summer term prior to a child's entry into the Reception year, the following procedures have been put into place to ensure successful transition

- Teachers will make visits to feeder settings. The number of visits will depend on the child's needs and how much information gathering is required in order to support the child's transition.
- Parents are invited to a meeting to ensure they know about school procedures and allocation of classes and any concerns they may want to express.
- The children are invited to visit to their reception class with and without their parents
- Children requiring extra support will have additional visits / contact to ensure they have a successful transition.
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From Reception Class to Key Stage 1

During the final term in Reception, the EYFS Profile is completed for each child. The Profile provides parents and carers, staff and teachers with a well-rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities, their progress against expected levels, and their readiness for Year 1. The Profile includes on-going observation, all relevant records held by the setting, discussions with parents and carers, and any other adults whom the teacher, parent or carer judges can offer a useful contribution.

Each child's level of development is assessed against the early learning goals. The profile indicates whether children are meeting expected levels of development, or if they are exceeding expected levels, or not yet reaching expected levels ('emerging'). Year 1 teachers are given a copy of the Profile report together with a short commentary on each child's skills and abilities in relation to the three key characteristics of effective learning. This informs the dialogue between Reception and Year 1 teachers about each child's stage of development and learning needs and assists with the planning of activities in Year 1.

Relevant policies

Safeguarding Policy

Health and Safety Policy

Behaviour Policy

Lunchtime Policy

SEN Policy