



# Denver VC Primary School

## Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Policy

### Introduction

As a church school, our values are based on Christian principles, and we have an ethos of hard work and mutual respect. **Our shared Christian vision is:**

**To seek to discover and celebrate whatever is good in each individual.**

**Discover – Value - Celebrate - Praise**



*Matthew 5:16*

**We aim to** develop the whole school community, promoting the academic, social, emotional, physical, spiritual, and aesthetic aspects of the individual.

This is the starting point of all our policy writing so that we can encourage all members of our community to 'Let their light shine' surrounded by a safe, enabling and encouraging environment.

<b>Formally adopted by the Governing Board of:-</b>	<b>Denver VC Primary School</b>
<b>On:-</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> July 2025</b>
<b>Chair of Governors:-</b>	<b>Carole Reich</b>
<b>Last updated:-</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>

## **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

## **Legislation**

This policy is based on requirements set out in the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\)](#) for 2024.

## **Structure of the EYFS**

Class 1 caters for children in Reception and a number of children in Y1. Work is differentiated to meet the needs of the children in the class.

## **Curriculum**

Our early years setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the latest EYFS statutory framework. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The Y1 National Curriculum is also followed for those children in Y1.

The EYFS framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. 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

Weaving throughout the EYFS curriculum are the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning:

- 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

These elements underpin how staff reflect on each child's development and adjust practice accordingly.

Development Matters provides non-statutory curriculum guidance for the EYFS. It provides an overall view of how children develop and learn. It guides but does not replace practitioner's professional judgement. As stated in Development Matters, children develop at their own rates, and in their own ways. The development statements and their order should not be taken as necessary steps for individual children, they should not be used as check lists.

### **Planning**

We plan learning experiences from the children's interests and believe they should play an active role in generating ideas for the curriculum. The children will be given opportunities to explore and develop learning experiences, which help them to make sense of the world through play. They will practice and build up ideas and skills and learn how to control themselves and understand the need for boundaries as they become more competent in managing their behavioral impulses. They will have opportunities to think creatively and collaboratively alongside other children as well as developing independence and furthering their ability to use their own initiative, pursuing their own ideas and interests.

We ensure that children have plenty of opportunities to learn through play. We use the classroom and our outdoor area to enable children to access both planned and structured play activities while also pursuing self-initiated, spontaneous opportunities for learning via the playful exploration of resources and ideas. The learning environment is extended beyond the classroom to include the outside area so as to encourage a positive attitude towards learning. The children select their own resources where possible, thus encouraging independent learning. Planning is flexible and adapted continuously, to ensure we meet the changing needs of each learner.

Where a child may have a special educational need or disability, practitioners consider whether specialist support is required, linking with relevant services from other agencies, where appropriate.

### **Teaching**

Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned and purposeful activities, through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. The areas are enhanced to enable purposeful learning opportunities through play for each individual in the cohort. Staff respond to each child's emerging and evolving needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction and and effective two-way communication with home.

Phonics is taught daily following the teaching sequence set out in the phonics scheme Little Wandle letters and Sounds Revised.

We follow the Power Maths scheme which supports teaching for mastery.

The Primary Knowledge Curriculum inspires our topic themes and helps the children to broaden their understanding of the world around them.

Drawing Club is used to support the development of children's literacy.

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, in readiness for Year 1.

### **Assessment**

At Denver VC Primary, ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning and development process. Staff observe pupils continually to identify their level of achievement, their interests and engagement. These observations are used to shape future planning. Staff also take into account observations shared by parents and/or carers and encourage parental feedback so as to form a broader and more balanced view of each learner.

The children's learning is constantly monitored and observations are used to inform future provision. It is primarily by observing children that judgements are made, to inform records and ongoing planning. Observations are recorded in a variety of ways e.g. photographs, speech bubbles, snapshot observations, annotations on work and longer observations. Observations identify 'next steps' for learning and inform the focus of further lessons.

Within the first 6 weeks that a child starts Reception, staff will administer the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA).

Children's progress is tracked throughout their time in EYFS. Children's progress is assessed regularly against Development Matters and Early Learning Goals. Next steps are set using these documents, along with professional judgements. The children's progress can be seen in their learning journeys on Tapestry, written work and in photographic evidence.

Termly assessments are recorded on the school's tracking system and pupil progress meetings take place twice each year to ensure all pupil are fulfilling their potential.

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

Throughout their time in Reception children partake in an ambitious curriculum which is designed in a sequential way to ensure progress towards the end of reception goals. These goals are defined as Early Learning Goals (ELGs). 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:

- Expected - meeting expected levels of development
- Emerging - not yet reaching expected levels of development

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, in addition to teaching staff in Year 1. The profile is moderated internally (referring to the Development Matters guidance)

and in partnership with other schools, to ensure consistent assessment judgements. EYFS profile data is submitted to the Local Authority.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Members of the EYFS team attend relevant training to keep up to date with new developments.

### **Working with Parents**

We recognise that children learn and develop well when there is a strong partnership between staff and parents and/or carers. We work very hard to promote a successful partnership, with a two-way flow of knowledge, information and expertise. Parents are actively encouraged to share their own knowledge of their child's interests and strengths and the children's achievements outside of school are proudly displayed in the classroom.

Parents and/or carers are kept up to date with their child's progress and development through Tapestry, an online learning journey profile. Tapestry helps to provide parents and/or carers with a well-rounded picture of their child's knowledge, understanding and abilities. Class Dojo is also used to ensure good communication with parents.

An overview of formal/in-formal meetings is summarised below:

- Home visits are offered to all new pupils.
- A New Intake meeting for reception parents is organised for the term prior to admission.
- Visits are arranged for children in the term prior to entry.
- Class 1 staff observe children in their pre-school setting prior to entry.
- Class 1 staff greet the children at the start of the day and parents/carers collect children from the classroom allowing them to talk to staff on a daily basis.
- Parents are encouraged to help in school and on school trips.
- Parents and carers are invited into school to attend assemblies, Learning Cafés and training sessions e.g. phonics.
- Parents' Evenings are held twice a year, and an end of year report sent out.
- Through the year special events are held which parents are invited to attend.
- Parents can see their child's learning journey through Tapestry.

### **Transition**

Starting school in Reception can be a daunting prospect for both children and parents. We aim to make this transition as easy and comfortable as possible for all involved and we have a transition programme in place to ensure the best start for our pupils. We also recognise the importance of the transition from Reception to Y1, particularly where children move to Class 2.

Transition arrangements include:

- "Taster" afternoons for the new intake in the summer term.
- A New Intake meeting for reception parents is organised for the term prior to admission.
- Visits are arranged to nurseries, pre-schools for children in the term prior to entry.

- A staff member from Class 1 observes children in their nursery/pre-school setting prior to entry.
- Staff in both Class 1 and Class 2 work closely together to ensure smooth transitions for the Year 1 moving to Class 2
- Shared CPD and training opportunities.
- Shared resources.
- EYFS staff and Headteacher collaborate on summative assessments.

### **Inclusion**

We value all our children as individuals at Denver VC Primary, irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, background, ability or gender. We plan a curriculum that meets the needs of the individual child and supports them at their own pace. We strongly believe that early identification of children with additional needs is crucial in enabling us to give the child the support that they need and in doing so, work closely with parents and outside agencies. See our separate policy on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

### **Admissions Arrangements**

For children starting in Reception, we follow the Norfolk admissions process. Please see the Admissions policy.

### **Safeguarding and welfare procedures**

We recognise that 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. We follow safeguarding and welfare requirements to provide a welcoming, safe and stimulating environment where children are able to enjoy learning and grow in confidence.

We make sure that the appropriate statutory staff:child ratios are maintained in our setting to meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety.

We comply with infant class size legislation and have at least 1 teacher per 30 pupils.

We determine ratios guided by all relevant ratio requirements and by the needs of the children within the group.

We have at least 1 person with a current paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate on the premises and available at all times when children are present, including on outings. This PFA certificate is renewed every 3 years as required.

The rest of our safeguarding and welfare procedures are outlined in our school's child protection and safeguarding policy.

### **8. Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Headteacher every year. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

