

Understanding Early Years

Thursday 17th September 2026



Miss Randles



What is the EYFS?

“The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. All schools and Ofsted registered early years settings must follow the EYFS; including childminders, pre-schools, nurseries and Reception classes.”

EYFS statutory framework, updated 2026

Key Aspects of Learning



Key Principles of EYFS



EYFS Curriculum Intent

Our **enabling environments** and **positive relationships** support the needs of the **unique child** to meet and **exceed the early learning goals (ELGs)**. Our broad and balanced Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum allows children to gain skills, knowledge and understanding as they start out on their educational journey and begin to **build a love for learning**.

**How that fits into our broader
intent for all learners**



The Foundation Stage Curriculum

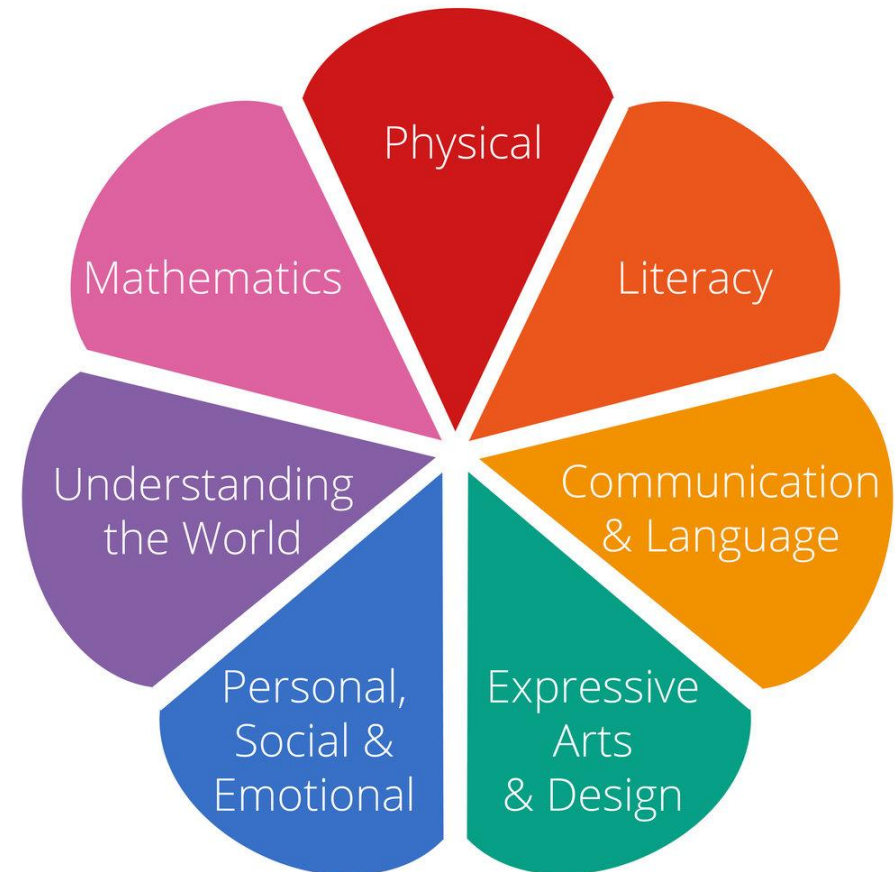
What do children learn?

Prime Areas

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

Specific Areas

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



Learning Through Play

Play underpins all development and learning...

- Learn through first hand experiences
- Learn to take risks and make mistakes
- Learn to communicate
- Learn to problem solve
- Learn to think imaginatively
- Explore, develop and represent learning experiences that help them make sense of the world.



EYFS Curriculum Map

Reception		Autumn Term			Spring Term				Summer Term			
Themes		Traditional Tales	Light and Dark	Christmas	Animals	People Who Help Us	Transport	Spring & Easter	Dinosaurs	Life Cycles	Minibeasts	Pirates
Spoken & Written Word	Communication, Literacy and Language	Discussing & Retelling Stories Initial Sounds Repeated Refrains Writing a Sentence	Rhyming Words Forming Letters Writing a Letter Retelling Stories Acrostic Poetry		Poetry Non-Fiction Texts Postcards Handwriting		Labelling Character Profiles Non-Fiction Reading Festivals Story Writing		Fact File Dinosaur Stories Non-Fiction Writing Labelling Sentence Structure		Recounts Information Booklets Writing a List Historical Stories Retelling Stories	
	French	Greetings & Colours	Facial Features & Christmas		Animals		Healthy Food		Counting		Picnic Food	
STEM	Maths	Recognising Numbers Counting on More and Less Counting to 10 Position and Size	2D and 3D Shape Counting to 20 More and Fewer Addition Subtraction		2D and 3D Shapes Counting to 20 Finding 1 More and 1 Less Finding a total		Addition Subtraction Recording Patterns		Number Bonds to 5 Number Bonds to 10		Exploring Weight Exploring Capacity Counting to 30	
Creative & Performance Art	Expressive Arts and Design	Self Portraits Colours for Purpose Vegetable Soup Bread Making Gingerbread Man	Creating a Planet Bonfire Night Firework Pictures Rangoli & Clay Diva Lamp Christmas Decorations		Enhancing Pictures Collage Body Percussion 3D Models inc. Vehicles Artist study		Carp Lanterns 3D Porthole Artwork Painting Collaborative Art Piece Easter Cards		Dinosaur/Fossil Clay Drawing Skills Mixing Colours Musical Instruments Artist Study		Bees – Moving Parts Performance Skills Coats of Arms Treasure Chest Self Portraits (revisited)	
Emotional Wellbeing	Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Rules & Boundaries Family Compromise Rights & Responsibilities Teamwork Class Charter	Listening Festivals Sharing Celebrations Routines Feelings and Emotions		Resolving Conflict Role Play Good Friends Positivity Perseverance		Positive Emotions Taking Turns & Sharing Resolving Conflict Exploring Religions		Going for Goals When I Am Older Being Honest Safety inc. Water Safety Say No To Bullying		Going for Goals Playing Co-Operatively Say No To Bullying Positive Relationships	
Physical Wellbeing	Physical Development	Moving Around Safely Bench Work Jumping on and off Indoor Apparatus Climbing a Ladder	Moving Carefully Moving Freely Skipping and Jumping Dance		Dance Routines Moving in Different Ways Using Ribbons		Moving in Different Ways Apparatus Balancing & Climbing Climbing Patterns		Shuttle Relays Javelin Hurdles Triple Jump		Relay Racing Circuits Long Jump	
	Games	Getting Changed Pushing and Throwing Running Throwing and Catching	Catching Ball Handling Team Games		Throwing Overarm Types of Passes Playing Safely		Passing Objects Throwing Objects Balancing		Tennis Cricket Rounders		Swimming	
Humanities	Understanding the World	Different Areas & Purposes Simple Map – School Site Looking After a Bean Introducing Autumn Making Vegetable Soup Waterproofing	Different Ways of Life Nocturnal Animals Introducing Winter Moon and Space Changing Environments		Environmental Changes Introducing Spring Birds Comparing the Past Occupations People Who Help Us		Floating and Sinking Animal Habitats Sea Pollution Growing Plants Spring Festivals		Changing State of Matter Growth and Changes Life Cycles Minibeasts & Habitats Comparing UK and Kenya		Introducing Summer Types of Bees Castles Churches Map Work	

Reception Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.45	Register	Register	Register	Register	Register
9.00	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics
9.30	CLL	CLL	CLL	CLL	CLL
10.20	Assembly	Assembly	Assembly	Assembly	Assembly
10.40	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11.00	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
12.00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1.00	Register	Register	Register	Register	Register
1.10	Reading for Pleasure	Reading for Pleasure	Reading for Pleasure	Reading for Pleasure	Reading for Pleasure
1.30	EAD	PD (outside)	UTW Library (2-2.30)	PD (inside)	French/PSED
2.30	Dough Disco	Movement	Get Squiggling	Circle Games	Cosmic Yoga
3.00	Nursery Rhymes	Counting Songs	Share the Kindness	Surprise Storyteller	Weekend Bear
3.15	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home

Typical Day

8.45 - Register and Welcome

9.00 - Phonics

9.30 - Teacher Led Input and Session - “Discovery”

10.20 - Assembly

10.40 - Break – Playground

11.00 - Teacher Led Input and Session – “Discovery”

12.00 - Lunch and Playground

1.00 - Register and Reading for Pleasure

1.30 - Teacher Led Input and Session – “Discovery”

2.30 - Class Time - activities

3.00 - Story and Dismissal

Characteristics of Effective Learning

How do children learn?



PLAYING AND
EXPLORING

ACTIVE
LEARNING

THINKING
CREATIVELY
AND CRITICALLY

Reception Timetable

PLAYING AND
EXPLORING

*The ways in which children
reach out into the world
and become engaged in
experiences that spark their
curiosity.*



Characteristics of Effective Learning

ACTIVE LEARNING

The ways in which children are motivated to devote care, attention and energy to their activities.



Characteristics of Effective Learning

THINKING
CREATIVELY
AND CRITICALLY

*The ways in which children see
and think of possibilities –
becoming inventors, problem
solvers and reflective learners.*



Assessment

Developing -
experiences and
opportunities, learning
environment, resources,
routines and
practitioners' roles

Planning

The Child

Observation

Look, listen and
note - **describing**

Assessment

Analysing observations and
deciding what they tell us about
the child



Tapestry

- Online Learning Journal
- Observations; *individual, group, class*
- Assessments; *linked to learning and next steps*
- Notifications
- Contributions from Home



Partnership with Parents at Home

- Reading
- Phonics
- Tapestry
- Self Help Skills
- Communication



Partnership with Parents in School

- Parent Helpers
- Surprise Storyteller
- School Trips
- OWLs Visits
- PTA representative
- Bright Futures



Any Questions?

