



# CURRICULUM DIRECTORY EYFS 2019-2020



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## **EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION (EYFS)**

The Early Years Foundation Stage is the Statutory Framework that sets the standards for the development, learning and care of children from birth to five years of age. The EYFS gives guidance on the observation, planning, assessment and teaching of children whilst allowing staff to respond flexibly to the particular needs and interests of the child. The learning experience aims to inspire the child inside and outside of the classroom. Our curriculum is designed to meet the criteria outlined in the EYFS Framework. Specific learning objectives are designed around three prime areas and four specific areas.

The prime areas of learning are:

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

The specific areas are

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

None of these areas can be delivered in isolation from the others. They are equally important and depend on each other. All areas are delivered through a balance of adult led and child initiated activities. In each area there are Early Learning Goals that define the expectations for most children to reach by the end of the Foundation Stage.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE LEARNING**

The ways in which a child engages with other people and their environment – playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically – underpin learning and development across all areas and enable the child to become an effective and motivated learner.

EYFS Staff provide a stimulating, nurturing environment where each child's needs are catered for through our activity based curriculum. Children learn through a wide and varied range of play activities. We firmly believe that learning should be absorbing, challenging and plenty of fun! This approach provides a basic grounding in numeracy and literacy, thereby enabling children to progress into the next stage of their education with a sense of achievement and confidence.

Many of the activities we cover are based around themes generated by the children. These may include topics such as Ourselves, Our School, Festivals and Celebrations, Space, Pirates, Animals, Traditional Stories or Journeys. These themes are not exclusive and will change according to the children's interest.

In order to extend the children's learning within our themes, visitors are invited to School to talk to the children/give demonstrations e.g. the Police, the Fire Service, Jaws 'n' Claws, Health Service Professionals and we make regular trips to the College Farm. In Nursery & Pre School our drama teacher takes weekly drama sessions and we encourage parents or other relatives to come to read stories or to tell the children about their religious festivals.

## COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

In the EYFS children are surrounded by a rich and engaging environment which supports all aspects of Literacy. Children participate in a multitude of practical activities, providing the basis for recording through writing, these are taught both discretely and through the topics for Nursery & Pre School and Reception.

### Speaking and Listening

Children are encouraged to express themselves clearly to individuals, groups, the whole class and, through assemblies and concerts, to a wider audience. All subjects include opportunities for discussion and children are also encouraged to share their experiences and talk about interesting events in 'circle time'.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

The aims of Physical Education are to;

- develop a range of physical skills
- develop stamina and strength
- develop an appreciation of fair play, honest competition and good sportsmanship
- develop an appreciation of the aesthetic qualities of movement
- learn how to co-operate with others and work successfully in pairs, groups and teams
- develop physical and mental co-ordination, self-control and confidence
- develop self-confidence through the understanding of one's own capabilities and limitations
- provide opportunities for the participation in challenging experiences in a variety of environments
- motivate each other so that they retain a lifelong interest in all aspect of PE and recognise the importance of living and maintaining a healthy life
- encourage the safe, correct use of a variety of tools, including writing implements
- develop good hand control and correct letter, number formation

Both the Nursery & Pre School and Reception have secure and well-equipped outdoor play areas which are used throughout the school day. As a School we have access to a number of facilities such as a grass field, hard court, tarmac playground as well as additional facilities at Lancing College.

To develop their ability to execute movements with increasing control, children in the Nursery & Pre School visit the school gym throughout the week where they are taught by Nursery Staff. Children work on a range of balancing and climbing apparatus in the gym to further develop gross motor skills. They use a variety of small equipment such as balls, hoops and beanbags in games to further develop control and skill. They learn to co-operate as part of a team through games and activities including parachute games. Children are encouraged to respond to music and create dances, to move confidently, with increasing control and co-ordination and an awareness of space and others. Our eldest Pre School children have weekly swimming sessions during the Autumn and first half of the Spring terms. They also learn to manipulate small objects and participate in cutting, colouring and line drawing activities, dough gym activities and in simple writing activities, which in turn will develop their fine motor control (pencil skills).

Reception children take part in gym and games lessons throughout the week and are taught by a member of PE Staff; they also have a block of weekly swimming lessons during the Spring term. Children also refine their fine motor control through daily 'Funky Fingers' activities.

Children in the EYFS work both inside and out to develop increasing control over their bodies and they learn about the importance of healthy eating, hygiene and exercise in their daily lives. They are

encouraged to handle appropriate tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control.

## **PERSONAL SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Personal, Social and Emotional Development is the promotion of personal qualities, skills, attitudes and values which enable individuals to think for themselves, manage relationships with others, understand moral issues, accept responsibilities and prepare to play an active role as citizens.

## **LITERACY**

Within the Early Years Foundation Stage Literacy consists of Reading and Writing.

### **Literacy in Nursery & Pre School**

#### **Reading**

As with many other areas of development, reading does not just happen. Children have to learn quite a few skills first, sometimes called 'pre-reading skills'. Reading is partly about being able to remember and decode symbols. Many of the shapes of letters and words in English are quite similar. For children, this means building on their ability to observe and discriminate between shapes. In Nursery & Pre School our curriculum includes specific activities which will help children develop these skills, which are essential before any reading can take place. Activities such as jigsaw puzzles, matching games such as lotto, observing objects closely and sorting items help children build their memory and visual discrimination skills.

In Nursery & Pre School we make reading part of our everyday routine so that children quickly pick up subtle skills, such as which way to follow the print of a book, how to use pictures to help decode the words and how to recognise initial letters. The structure of a book is explained - the book cover, title, author and how we read from left to right. The children also learn how to treat books with care and respect.

#### **Writing**

Nursery & Pre School children are encouraged to make marks, which in time will support their early writing skills and we ensure this is fun by making marks in shaving foam, paint, the air, using tools in the sand or sticks in the mud. All these activities develop children's hand-eye co-ordination, accuracy and confidence, which is required for when children are ready to use pencils and begin letter formation. A wide selection of mark making implements are always available (pencils, wax crayons, felt pens, chalks etc) and children are shown how to hold these correctly to ensure good hand control.

#### **Phonics**

Along with visual discrimination, children have to develop their ability to hear differences in sounds. In the Nursery & Pre School, children are introduced to Phase 1 of the Letters and Sounds Programme which supports the development of speaking and listening and awareness of sounds. We focus on play activities that provide children with the opportunity to enrich their language across all areas of the curriculum. This phase looks at environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body percussion, rhyme and rhythm, songs, alliteration, voice and oral blending (children need to 'hear' the sounds before they can read and spell words).

### **Literacy in Reception**

#### **Reading**

In Reception children are taught to read through a range of genres and texts, including picture books, where they begin to make up their own stories. They are also encouraged to borrow books from the

library. Basic words are taught using word bags which are sent home. Flash card games enable the pupils to recognise phonemes, digraph and trigraphs (the letter sounds) and later, 'tricky words' (irregular words that cannot be sounded out) by sight. They use their knowledge of the sounds of the letters to blend and read words. Great emphasis is placed upon the enjoyment and understanding of the written word. Reception children read to an adult on a one-to-one basis twice a week. Reading books are sent home for daily practice and are changed regularly. Older children are encouraged to come to the Nursery and Reception to share stories with the younger children.

### **Writing**

Children are encouraged to express themselves on paper, writing for a variety of purposes, including stories, poems, factual accounts, recipes, lists and letters. Mark making equipment is provided in all areas for the children to use in their independent play.

### **Phonics and Spelling**

The Letters and Sounds programme continues into Reception using Phases 2 – 4. Initial sounds are formally taught using the Jolly Phonics approach. The children are told stories and learn the songs and actions for each sound. This begins with single phonemes in the Nursery and then progresses in Reception to the written letter and digraphs such as 'sh', 'ch', 'th', 'ee', 'or', 'ai', 'ng', 'ie', 'oa', 'ou'. These sounds are stuck into a sound book which is sent home for daily practice. In written work children are encouraged to try emergent writing initially, then use their phonic knowledge to segment and write words in their independent work. Once 'tricky words' have been learned in Reception the children are encouraged to begin to spell them. By the end of Reception many can confidently complete independent written work.

### **Handwriting**

Correct letter formation is practised regularly. The children learn cursive writing through the ThinkWrite scheme. We encourage the children to use a triangulation grip using their 'tripod' fingers. In Reception children take part in a daily routine called 'Funky Fingers' which aims to strengthen the muscles of the arms and fingers and develop the fine motor skills required to hold and use a pencil effectively.

Children in Reception enjoy marking making with a variety of media including paint, chalk, sand and shaving foam both indoors and outdoors.

### **MATHEMATICS**

In Nursery and Reception children learn mathematical skills and problem solving skills through a multitude of practical activities, using mathematical equipment and taking part in games on the interactive whiteboard. The pupils revisit all areas regularly during the year to ensure they have a good understanding of mathematical concepts. By the end of the EYFS children will have taken part in and learned about the following topics:

#### **Sorting Activities**

- Sort by colour, size, shape and type
- Select own criteria for sorting

#### **Counting**

- Count sets of objects reliably
- Estimate sets of objects
- Use a number line correctly
- Put numbers in the right order
- Repeat patterns using objects and numbers
- Use ordinal numbers, e.g. first, second, third



### Addition and Subtraction

- Know one more/one less than a given number
- Count on or back from a given number
- Use +, -, = signs
- Use quantities and objects to add and take away
- Solve simple problems in practical contexts involving sharing, halving and doubling

### Shape

- Explore the properties of 2D shapes – circles, triangles, squares, rectangles, hexagons and use mathematical language to describe them
- Explore the properties of 3D shapes – cones, cylinders, cubes, cuboids, spheres and use mathematical language to describe them
- Use positional language (above, below, under, next to, between)

### Measures

- Use language to compare 2 quantities (long/longer, short/shorter, tall/taller, high/higher, low/lower, wide/wider, narrow/narrower)
- Compare without measuring
- Estimate and order
- Estimate and order starting with heaviest/lightest
- Explore which container holds more/less
- Order according to capacity

### Patterns

- Recognise, create and describe patterns e.g. repeating patterns, symmetrical patterns

### Time

- Know the day
- Order the days of the week
- Name the months and seasons of the year
- Use the language of time
- Use simple timers to measure periods of time

### Money

- Recognise coins to £2
- Begin to add and subtract and give change

## **UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD**

This area involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. This is done by providing opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places technology and the environment.

Children are encouraged to explore and investigate, drawing on their own personal experiences and observing closely using their senses.

Understanding the world is divided into three sections:

- People and Communities
- The World
- Technology

We aim to equip the children with the following skills:

- Show curiosity and interest in the features of objects and living things
- Describe and talk about what they see
- Show curiosity about why things happen and how things work
- Show an understanding of cause and effect
- Notice and comment on patterns
- Show an awareness of change
- Investigate objects and materials by using all of their senses as appropriate
- Find out about and identify some features of living things, objects and events they observe
- Look closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change
- Ask questions about why things happen and how things work
- To be able to operate simple equipment e.g. use an interactive whiteboard, CD player, camera, use remote control vehicles; children also have access to the use of iPads.
- To know that information can be found, saved and retrieved on computers

These skills are often taught through the EYFS topics. We also have a purpose built computer room as well as having computers and interactive whiteboards in the classrooms.

#### **EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN**

Art and Music form part of the Expressive Arts and Design strand in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Pupils develop their creativity and imagination by exploring the visual, tactile and sensory qualities of materials and processes. They learn about the role of art, craft and design in their environment. They begin to understand colour, shape, space, pattern and texture and use them to represent their ideas and feelings.

In art we aim to teach the pupils to:

- Explore different mark making using a variety of materials
- Draw from observation
- Explore shape, size, pattern and texture
- Use different pencils to achieve different effects (tones)
- Produce imaginative drawing
- Draw myself (full figure using pencil)
- Use paint and other mediums to explore; Autumn colours, light/dark colours, primary colours, hot and cold colours
- Create models from junk
- Explore properties of different mediums
- Repeat patterns and shapes
- Experiment with clay to realise its shape and texture can be changed
- Explore the qualities of different fabrics
- Recognise the similarities and differences of various materials
- Explore ways of threading materials

## **FOREST SCHOOL**

A Forest School area is currently under development on the school field. Children in the EYFS attend regular Forest School sessions led by qualified staff throughout the year. These may take place at the Forest School site or activities under-pinned by the principles of Forest School may take place within the Nursery garden/Reception outside area.

Forest School is based upon the principles of child-centered learning, encouraging children to develop a relationship between learning and the natural world at their own pace and in their own way, exploring using multiple senses. In this way Forest School offers an alternative way of teaching in a woodland environment, away from the structure of a formal classroom setting. This allows for greater freedom of thought and creativity and can lead to success for children who do not thrive within the classroom.

Forest School leaders work to facilitate the children's learning through encouragement and support rather than simply providing the answers, thus enabling children to solve problems for themselves either independently or through team work. Once they have learned a skill, children are encouraged to teach and help each other, both consolidating their learning and developing a culture of helping others.

(Further information about Forest School at LPW can be found in the 'Forest School – Information for Parents' Handbook.)

## **MUSIC CURRICULUM**

Children in Nursery and Reception have music lessons with our Head of Music. They use percussion instruments, learn songs and clap rhythms, they prepare songs for performance at the Harvest Festival, the Christmas Production and assemblies to which parents are invited. They also learn many songs within the classroom.

The lessons aim to:

- Develop musical memory and accurate pitching through listening and singing
- Explore the singing voice and different kinds of voice production
- Sing in a class, in a group and as an individual
- Develop a sense of pulse
- Learn simple musical terms including tempo, sound, silence and rhythm
- Develop listening skills
- Explore and experience concepts of musical opposites: loud, soft, high, low, fast, slow, sound, silence
- Develop confidence and self-esteem

Children will also explore the musical topics related to their cross curricular topics.

