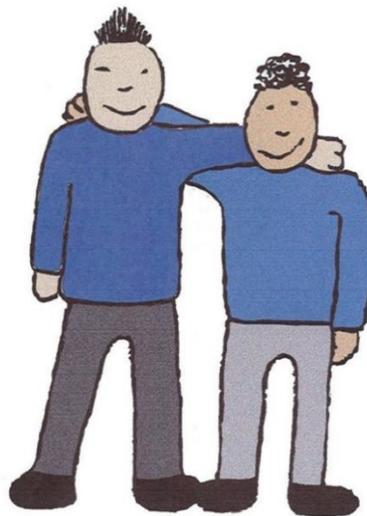


Kneesall C of E Primary



## Early Years Policy

Head Teacher Signature:	<i>Onof.</i>
Date Adopted:	June 2025
Review Date:	June 2027

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## Statement of intent

At Kneesall C of E Primary, we greatly value the importance of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in providing a secure foundation for future learning and development.

This policy has been developed in conjunction with the relevant DfE guidance and legislation to ensure that each child has a happy and positive start to their school life in which they can build a foundation for a love of learning.

We ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. We promote teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and give children a broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

We seek to provide:

- **Quality and consistency**, so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind.
- **A secure foundation** through learning and development opportunities which are planned around the needs and interests of each child and are assessed and reviewed regularly.
- **Partnership working** between practitioners and parents and carers.
- **Equality of opportunity** and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported.

## 1. Legal framework

- 1.1. This policy has due regard to statutory legislation, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - Childcare Act 2006
  - The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
  - The GDPR
  - Data Protection Act 2018
- 1.2. This policy has due regard to statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:
  - DfE (2021) 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'
  - DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education'
  - DfE (2023) 'Working together to safeguard children'
  - DfE (2024) 'The prevent duty'
- 1.3. This policy is intended to be used in conjunction with the following school policies:
  - Behaviour Policy
  - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
  - Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
  - Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy
  - Equity and Diversity Policy
  - Administering Medication Policy
  - Health and Safety Policy
  - Recruitment Policy
  - Data Protection Policy
  - Use of Children's Photographs Policy
  - Complaints Procedures Policy

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

- 2.1. The Governing Body has the overall responsibility for ensuring there is a policy in place to safeguard children that includes an explanation of the action to be taken when there are safeguarding concerns about a child, the use of mobile phones and cameras, and staff safeguarding training requirements. These

issues are addressed in part in this policy and in further detail in the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Photography Policy.

- 2.2. The Governing Body has the overall responsibility for ensuring there is a policy in place in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff. These issues are addressed in the school's Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy.
- 2.3. The Governing Body has the overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy.
- 2.4. The Governing Body has overall responsibility for ensuring that this policy does not discriminate on any grounds, including, but not limited to, ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.
- 2.5. The Governing Body has responsibility for handling complaints regarding this policy, as outlined in the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.
- 2.6. The EYFS teacher, in conjunction with the headteacher, has responsibility for the day-to-day implementation and management of this policy.
- 2.7. Staff, including teachers, support staff and volunteers, are responsible for familiarising themselves with, and following, this policy.
- 2.8. Staff, including teachers, support staff and volunteers, are responsible for remaining alert to any issues of concern in children.

### **3. Aims**

- 3.1. Through the implementation of this policy, we aim to:
  - Give each child a happy and positive start to their school life in which they can establish a solid foundation for a love of learning.
  - Enable each child to develop socially, physically, intellectually and emotionally.
  - Encourage children to develop independence within a secure and friendly atmosphere.
  - Support children in building relationships through the development of social skills such as cooperation and sharing.
  - Work alongside parents and carers and carers to meet each child's individual needs to ensure they reach their full potential.
- 3.2. Four guiding principles shape our practice:

- Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
- Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between the school and parents/carers.
- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

3.3. To put these principles into practice, the school:

- Provides a balanced curriculum which takes children's different stages of development into account.
- Promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.
- Works in partnership with parents and carers.
- Plans challenging learning experiences, based on individual needs, which are informed by observation and assessment.
- Implements a key person approach to develop close relationships with children.
- Provides a safe and secure learning environment.

## **4. Learning and development**

- 4.1. The EYFS curriculum is based on an observation of children's needs, interests and stages of development.
- 4.2. In partnership with parents and carers, the school promotes the learning and development of pupils to ensure they are ready for the next stage of education.
- 4.3. There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape education programmes in EYFS settings. These are split into two sections – prime and specific; however, all the sections are interconnected and important.
- 4.4. The 'prime' areas of learning and development are:
  - Communication and language
    - Listening, attention and understanding
    - Speaking
  - Physical development

- Gross motor skills
  - Fine motor skills
  - Personal, social and emotional development
    - Self-regulation
    - Managing self
    - Building relationships
- 4.5. The 'specific' areas of learning and development are:
  - Literacy
    - Comprehension
    - Word reading
    - Writing
  - Mathematics
    - Numbers
    - Numerical patterns
  - Understanding the world
    - Past and present
    - People, culture and communities
    - The natural world
  - Expressive arts and design
    - Creating with materials
    - Being imaginative and expressive
- 4.6. Activities are planned to reflect children's interests and individual circumstances in order to provide each child with a challenging and enjoyable experience.
- 4.7. The EYFS teacher will discuss any cause for concern in a child's progress, especially in the prime areas of learning, with the child's parents and carers. A strategy of support will be agreed upon and consideration will be taken as to whether the child may have a special educational need or disability which requires additional support.
- 4.8. The school takes reasonable steps to provide opportunities for children with EAL to use their home language in play and learning whilst also ensuring that these children have sufficient opportunities to reach a good standard of English. During assessment, if a child is found to not have a strong grasp on English, the EYFS teacher will contact the child's parents and carers to establish their

home language skills to assess if there is cause for concern about a language delay.

- 4.9. Each area of learning and development will be implemented through a mix of child-initiated, adult-initiated and adult-led activities.
- 4.10. The school will respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through friendly and positive interaction.
- 4.11. Activities are planned with regard to three characteristics of effective teaching and learning in the EYFS:
  - Playing and exploring – children investigate and experience things.
  - Active learning – children concentrate, keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy their achievements.
  - Creating and thinking critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

## 5. Nursery Provision

- 5.1 As a school Nursery, we admit children into Nursery the term after children turn 3 - September, January and April. To apply for a Nursery place, please contact the school office for an application form.
- 5.2 Securing a place at our Nursery does not guarantee a place in our Reception class through First Admissions.
- 5.3 As a provider of funded childcare places, we are committed to being transparent in the way funded hours are accessed. Additional charges are not mandatory or a condition of accessing a funded place.
- 5.4 We aim to be as flexible as possible for parents and carers when allocating funded places. There is no statutory requirement for places to be offered at particular times or on particular days and places depend upon session vacancies and staff availability.
- 5.5 As a school, the timings of our sessions are dependent upon the staff available and are also linked to the overall timing and structure of the school day. There is a break over the lunch period when additional staff are employed to supervise children, whilst teachers and teaching assistants have a break before leading the afternoon session.
- 5.6 Our session timings are:
  - Morning: 8.45-11.45

- Afternoon: 12.30-3.30
  - Whole day: 8.45-3.30 (with 45 minutes wraparound care)
- 5.7 For children attending a whole day, parents can provide a packed lunch, or a school meal can be purchased. Please ask the school office for the current price of a school meal.
- 5.8 Wraparound care options are available to support the provision of the funded childcare sessions, please ask the school office for prices and timings of these additional options, which are in place to support parents/carers during their working hours.
- 5.9 If our standard arrangements make it prohibitive for your child to access a place within our nursery, then please discuss with our Headteacher to see if we can offer mutually convenient alternative arrangements.
- 5.10 Unfortunately, the ongoing viability of our Nursery and the funding model adopted means we are unable to employ suitably qualified staff to offer a continuous 6-hour session. The wraparound care charge goes towards the provision of additional support staff who supervise during this period. As a school we do not seek to make profit from any additional services offered.

## **6. Inclusion**

- 6.1. All children are valued as individuals irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, background, ability or gender.
- 6.2. The EYFS curriculum is planned in order to meet the needs of the individual child and support them at their own pace.
- 6.3. The Equity and Diversity Policy ensures that the needs of all children are met, regardless of any protected characteristics they have.
- 6.4. The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy ensures all children receive the support they need and are given the best learning experience possible.
- 6.5. SEND in the EYFS setting will be monitored and managed by the school's SENCO.

## **7. The learning environment and outdoor spaces**

- 7.1. The EYFS classroom is organised in such a way that children can explore and learn in a safe and stimulating environment.

- 7.2. Children have access to a secure outdoor play area on a free-flow basis during child-initiated learning time each day. Extreme weather which would make outdoor learning inappropriate and unsafe will occasionally prevent outdoor learning.
- 7.3. There are two toilet facilities available to the EYFS, and there are hygienic changing facilities located within the EYFS Unit containing a supply of towels and spare clothes.

## **8. Assessment**

- 8.1. Assessment plays an integral part in helping the school to recognise children's progress, understand their needs, plan activities, and assess the need for support.
- 8.2. Parents/carers will be kept up-to-date with their child's progress and development, and the EYFS teacher will address any learning and development need in partnership with parents and carers.
- 8.3. Formative assessments are used to assess the learning and development of children in the EYFS. Staff members will observe children to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles. This information will then be used to shape learning experiences for each child.
- 8.4. Reasonable adjustments will be made to the assessment process for children with SEND as appropriate.

## **9. Safeguarding and welfare**

- 9.1. All necessary steps are taken to keep the children in our care safe and well.
- 9.2. Any safeguarding or welfare issues will be dealt with in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, and all members of staff in the EYFS are required to read this policy as part of their induction training.
- 9.3. The DSL is Mrs Emma Marfleet.
- 9.4. The Deputy DSL's are Mrs Jenny Wass and Mrs Jessica Childs.
- 9.5. The DSL is responsible for safeguarding children and liaising with local children's services as appropriate.
- 9.6. The deputy DSL will undertake the duties of the DSL in their absence, but overall responsibility for safeguarding will remain with the DSL.
- 9.7. The DSL and deputies will undertake child protection training as required.

- 9.8. Staff will receive safeguarding training that enables them to understand the safeguarding policy and procedures, have up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding issues, and recognise signs of potential abuse and neglect.

## **10. Mobile phones and devices**

- 10.1. For the purposes of this policy, the term 'mobile phone' refers to any electronic device that can be used to take images or record videos, including tablets.
- 10.2. Photography policies and procedures are addressed in full in our Photography Policy.

### **Use of mobile phones by staff members**

- 10.3. Staff members must not use personal mobile phones or cameras when children are present.
- 10.4. Staff may use mobile phones on school premises outside of working hours when no children are present.
- 10.5. Staff may use mobile phones in the staffroom during breaks and non-contact time.
- 10.6. Mobile phones should be locked away and in silent mode whilst children are present.
- 10.7. Staff may take mobile phones on trips, but they must only be used in emergencies and should not be used when children are present. Mobile phones must not be used to take images or videos at any time during trips.
- 10.8. Staff who do not adhere to this policy will face disciplinary action.
- 10.9. Staff may use their professional judgement in emergency situations.
- 10.10. Staff must report any concerns about another staff member's use of mobile phones to the DSL, following the procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and the Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy.

### **Use of mobile phones by parents/carers, visitors and contractors**

- 10.11. Parents/carers, visitors and contractors are not permitted to take photographs or record videos without prior permission.
- 10.12. Parents and carers may take photographs and videos only containing their own child during school events.

- 10.13. Parents and carers may take group photographs at school events but only with the informed consent of the parents and carers of the children involved.
- 10.14. The school strongly advises against the publication of any photographs or videos taken at the school or school events on social media.
- 10.15. Staff must report all concerns about parents/carers, visitors and contractors to the DSL, following the procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

#### **Use of the school's mobile phones and cameras**

- 10.16. Staff are provided with a school device to ensure that only school devices are used to take photographs and videos.
- 10.17. School devices must have passcode protection.
- 10.18. School devices must only be used for work related matters.
- 10.19. School devices must only be used to take photographs in the presence of another staff member and only with the consent of the child's parent.
- 10.20. Staff must not take photographs of bruising or injuries for child protection reasons. Instead, recording concerns forms and body maps are used to record observations relating to child protection concerns – these can be acquired from the DSL.
- 10.21. School devices must not be taken off school premises without prior written permission from the headteacher.
- 10.22. Where staff members have concerns over material on a school device, they must report all concerns to the DSL, following the procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

## **11. Health and safety**

- 11.1. A first-aid box is located in the EYFS classroom.
- 11.2. Only medicine prescribed to a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist will be administered.
- 11.3. The school's Administering Medication Policy outlines the procedures for administering medicines.
- 11.4. The EYFS teacher will report any accident or injury involving a child to their parents and carers on the day it occurs, and any first-aid treatment administered to a child will also be reported to their parents and carers.

- 11.5. Accidents and injuries will be recorded on our online system - Scholarpack.
- 11.6. The headteacher will report any serious accident, illness, injury, or death of a child whilst in the school's care to Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practicable, but within 14 days of the incident occurring. Local child protection agencies will also be notified.
- 11.7. The school has a Fire Evacuation Plan in place.
- 11.8. Any food or drink provided to children is healthy, balanced and nutritious.
- 11.9. A member of staff with a valid paediatric first aid certificate will always be present in the room while children are eating.
- 11.10. Children will always be within sight and hearing of a member of staff to ensure prompt response to any choking incidents, which can be silent.
- 11.11. If a child experiences a choking incident that requires intervention, details of the incident must be recorded and parents/carers informed.
- 11.12. Food is prepared in a manner which prevents choking. E.g. sausages, grapes, berries and cherry tomatoes must be quartered lengthways. Chewy meat must be cut into small pieces. Hard round vegetables such as carrot and cucumber must be cut into batons.
- 11.13. Popcorn, boiled sweets, jelly cubes, chewing gum and marshmallows will not be provided to children.
- 11.14. The school is strictly nut-free. Please ensure that no nuts or nut products are included in packed lunches to protect children with allergies.
- 11.15. Packed lunches provided from home should be healthy, balanced and nutritious.
- 11.16. The headteacher will notify Ofsted of any incidents of food poisoning affecting two or more children within 14 days of the incident.
- 11.17. Information about any dietary requirements, preferences, food allergies and any special health requirements a child has will be recorded and adhered to by all staff.
- 11.18. Fresh drinking water is available at all times.
- 11.19. Smoking is not permitted on the school premises.
- 11.20. The Health and Safety Policy outlines the full health and safety policies and procedures.

## **12. Staff taking medication or other substances**

- 12.1. The school implements a zero-tolerance approach to drugs and alcohol misuse.
- 12.2. The use of alcohol or any other substance that may affect the ability to care for children by a member of staff will not be tolerated. If there is a reason to believe a member of staff is under the influence of alcohol or any other substance, they will not be allowed to work directly with children and further action will be taken.
- 12.3. Any member of staff taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children will seek medical advice. Staff will only be allowed to work directly with the children if it is confirmed that the medication is unlikely to impair their ability to look after children properly.
- 12.4. Any medication used by staff is securely stored in the school office. When medication needs to be kept close by the child for emergency aid, it is kept securely away from all children in the staff kitchen area at a height away from a child's reach.
- 12.5. All medication is administered by a trained adult and a log is kept of the amount and time.
- 12.6. Staff are trained by a health professional to support children with serious medical needs such as epilepsy and diabetes.
- 12.7. Parents are kept well informed of all medical emergencies. Staff know when to contact emergency services.
- 12.8. The whole school staff team are made aware of the children's needs and are able to recognise them if on duty.

## **13. Staffing**

- 13.1. A robust Recruitment Policy is in place, which aims to ensure that members of staff employed in the EYFS are suitable.
- 13.2. Upon employment, all EYFS staff receive induction training to ensure that they understand their roles and responsibilities, including information about emergency evacuation procedures, safeguarding, child protection and health and safety.
- 13.3. Staff will be supported to undertake the appropriate training and professional development to ensure children receive the best quality learning experience.

- 13.4. All members of staff who have contact with children and families will be supervised by the Headteacher. The supervision will provide opportunities for staff to:
- Discuss any issues, particularly concerning the development or wellbeing of children, including any child protection concerns.
  - Identify solutions to address issues.
  - Receive coaching to improve their effectiveness.
- 13.5. The EYFS teacher holds a full and relevant level 6 qualification alongside at least two years' experience working in an early years setting. At least half of the other EYFS staff hold a full and relevant level 3 qualification.
- 13.6. The EYFS teaching team will provide cover for the EYFS teacher in their absence and are deemed fully qualified to do so by the headteacher.
- 13.7. All members of the EYFS team will hold a current paediatric first-aid (PFA) certificate.
- 13.8. Any member of staff who has sole responsibility for looking after a group of children will also hold an appropriate First Aid certificate.
- 13.9. All newly qualified staff will be PFA trained.
- 13.10. The school will organise PFA training to be renewed every three years.
- 13.11. The list of staff who hold PFA certificates can be found in the school office.
- 13.12. The school provides a staffing ratio in line with the safeguarding and welfare requirements set out in the 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'.
- 13.13. Only members of staff with level 2 English and maths qualifications will count towards the staffing ratios at level 3.
- 13.14. The school adopts the following staffing ratios:
- For children aged three and over:
    - Where a staff member with qualified teacher status (QTS), early years professional status, or another suitable level 6 qualification is working directly with the children, there is one member of staff for every 13 children, and at least one other member of staff holds a full and relevant level 3 qualification.
    - Where a member of staff does not hold QTS, early years professional status, or another suitable level 6 qualification, there is

one member of staff for every eight children. At least one staff member holds a full and relevant level 3 qualification, and at least half of all other staff hold a full and relevant level 2 qualification.

- 13.15. Only under exceptional circumstances, and where the quality of care and safety of children is maintained, will changes be made to the ratios.
- 13.16. Parents and carers will be informed about staffing arrangements and, when relevant and practical, will be involved in staffing arrangement decisions.
- 13.17. Each child is assigned a key person whose role it is to help ensure that every child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs.
- 13.18. The EYFS teacher will inform parents and carers of whom their child's key person is and will explain the role of the key person when their child begins attending the school.

#### **14. Information and records**

- 14.1. Information is stored in line with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, and with regard to the school's Data Protection Policy.
- 14.2. The following information is recorded for each child:
  - The child's name and date of birth
  - The name and address of every parent or carer who is known to the school, and which parent or carer the child normally lives with
  - The emergency contact details of the child's parent or carer
- 14.3. The following information about the school is recorded:
  - The school's name, address and telephone number
  - The school's certificate of registration
  - The name, address and telephone number of anyone who will regularly be in unsupervised contact with the children
  - A daily record of the names of the children being cared for in the school, their hours of attendance, and the names of each child's key person
- 14.4. The following information is made available to parents and carers:
  - The school's privacy notice for parents and carers and pupils
  - How the school delivers the EYFS and how parents and carers can access more information

- The daily routine and the activities offered in the school's EYFS and how parents and carers can assist their child's learning at home
- How the school's EYFS supports children with SEND
- Details of the food and drink provided to the children
- Information about the policies and procedures in place in the school's EYFS

14.5. Ofsted will be notified if there are any changes to the following:

- The address of the school
- The school's contact details
- The hours during which care is provided
- Any significant event which is likely to affect the suitability of the school or any person who cares for, or is in regular contact with, children to look after children

## **15. Parental involvement**

- 15.1. We firmly believe that the EYFS cannot function without the enduring support of parents and carers.
- 15.2. Parents and carers are invited to termly parents and carers' evenings; however, the school has an open-door policy and parents and carers are welcome to talk to teachers at the start and end of the school day.
- 15.3. Parents and carers are asked to sign permission slips for any visits out of school, use of photographs of their child and using the internet at school.
- 15.4. Parents and carers are asked to complete admission forms, a medical form and to write a brief synopsis about their child to help the school to understand their character and personality.
- 15.5. Parents and carers are invited to contribute to their child's learning, both in school and at home, and this can be shared via their Reading Record or other preferred method.

## **16. Monitoring and review**

- 16.1. This policy is reviewed every 2 years by the governing board and the headteacher.
- 16.2. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.

- 16.3. All members of staff directly involved with the EYFS are required to familiarise themselves with all processes and procedures outlined in this policy as part of their induction.
- 16.4. The next scheduled review date for this policy is June 2027.