

Hinckley Parks Primary School



FOUNDATION STAGE POLICY

Date Ratified: April 2018

Review Cycle: yearly

Review Date: April 2019

Opportunities | Wisdom | Legacy

Our school vision is based on our school motto, 'Opportunities, Wisdom, Legacy.' At Hinckley Parks Primary School, we strive to provide an inspiring and exciting wider curriculum together with a stimulating learning environment which will allow children the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of experiences which will develop the whole child and prepare them for the next stage of their lives. We recognise that education is a life long journey and ensure that we support children and teachers at all times to ensure that we provide the highest standard of teaching and learning possible for all children. Through our school values, we help each child develop knowledge and understanding as well as having a positive attitude towards themselves and others to enable them to enjoy a successful life in school and to allow them to make a positive contribution to society in the future. We celebrate success and achievement for every child and pride ourselves on developing a culture where children and adults look back fondly on their time spent at Hinckley Parks Primary School.

Leader: Leonie Phillips

Governor Link: R. Cresswell

Signed by Headteacher:

Signed by Chair of Governors:





Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

Mrs L. Phillips

Foundation Stage Co-ordinator

Aim

At Hinckley Parks primary School we aim to provide the highest quality care and education for all our children thereby giving them a strong foundation for their future learning. We create a safe and happy environment with motivating and enjoyable learning experiences that enable children to become confident and independent. We value the individual child and work alongside parents and others to meet their needs and help every child to reach their full potential.

As outlined in the EYFS 'Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances.'

We adhere to the Statutory Framework of the EYFS and the four guiding principles that shape practice within Early Years settings.

- ❖ 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 practitioners and parents and/or carers
- ❖ Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates

Principles into practice

As part of our practice we:

- ❖ Provide a balanced curriculum, based on the EYFS, across the seven areas of learning, using play as the vehicle for learning
- ❖ Promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. We provide early intervention for those children who require additional support
- ❖ Work in partnership with parents and within the wider context
- ❖ Plan challenging learning experiences, based on the individual child, informed by observation and assessment
- ❖ Provide opportunities for children to engage in activities that are adult-initiated, child-initiated and supported by the adult
- ❖ Provide a secure and safe learning environment indoors and out

Foundation Stage Curriculum

We plan an exciting and challenging curriculum based on our observation of children's needs, interests, and stages of development across the seven areas of learning to enable the children to achieve and exceed the early learning goals.

All the seven areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These three areas are the prime areas:

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



Children are also supported through the four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

The specific areas are:

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

Children are provided with a range of rich, meaningful first-hand experiences in which children explore, think creatively and are active. We aim to develop and foster positive attitudes towards learning, confidence, communication and physical development.

Children have whole group and small group times which increase as they progress through the EYFS with times for a daily phonics session, teaching aspects of Mathematics and Literacy, including shared reading and writing.

The curriculum is delivered using a play-based approach as outlined by the EYFS.

‘Each area of learning and development must be implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities’

We plan a balance between children having time and space to engage in their own child-initiated activities and those that are planned by the adults. During children’s play, early years practitioners interact to stretch and challenge children further.

In planning and guiding children's activities, we reflect as practitioners on the different ways that children learn and reflect these in our practice.

We create a stimulating environment to encourage children to free-flow between inside and out.

Observation and Assessment

As part of our daily practice we observe and assess children’s development and learning to inform our future plans. We record our observations in a variety of ways. Everyone is encouraged to contribute and discussions take place. Significant observations of children’s achievements are collated in their own personal learning journey, which are shared with parents. In the Spring term, parents are invited to attend a parents evening and reports are written for the end of year.

Within the final term of Foundation Stage, we provide the parent’s with a report based on their child's development against each of the Early Learning Goals and the characteristics of their learning. The parents are then given the opportunity to discuss these judgements with their child’s teacher in preparation for Year 1.

Safety

Children’s safety and welfare is paramount. We create a safe and secure environment and provide a curriculum which teaches children how to be safe, make choices and assess risks. We have stringent policies, procedures and documents in place to ensure children’s safety.

We promote the good health of the children in our care in numerous ways, including the provision of nutritious food, following set procedures when children become ill or have an accident.



Inclusion

We value all our children as individuals at Hinckley Parks, irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, background, ability or gender. We plan a curriculum that meet the needs of the individual child and support them at their own pace so that most of our children achieve and even exceed the Early Learning Goals. 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.

Parents as Partners and the Wider context

We strive to create and maintain partnership with parents and carers as we recognise that together, we can have a significant impact on a child's learning. We welcome and actively encourage parents to participate confidently in their child's education and care in numerous ways.

Working with other services and organisations is integral to our practice in order to meet the needs of our children. At times we may need to share information with other professionals to provide the best support possible.

We draw on our links with the community to enrich children's experiences by taking them on outings and inviting members of the community into our setting.

Transitions

Transitions are carefully planned for and time given to ensure continuity of learning. At any transition, we acknowledge the child's needs and establish effective partnerships with those involved with the child and other settings, including nurseries and child-minders. Children attend introductory sessions to develop familiarity with the setting and practitioners.

In the final term of Foundation Stage, the Year 1 teacher will meet with the Early Years staff and discuss each child's development against the Early Learning Goals in order to support a smooth transition to Year 1. This discussion helps the Year 1 teacher to plan an effective, responsive and appropriate curriculum that will meet the needs of all children.