

# Awaiting Ratification



## Stogursey CofE Primary School

*'Grow in Grace and Knowledge'*

*2 Peter 3:18*



## EYFS Policy

LINKS: See Appendix 1 (page 6)

DATE: February 2026

POSTHOLDER RESPONSIBLE: Caitlin Boxell

MONITORED BY: Local Governance Committee

DATE RATIFIED BY GOVERNORS: March 2026

AUDIENCE: Staff, parents, pupils

REVIEW DATE: February 2027

## Summary of Changes

Version	Section	Description of Changes
January 2024	All	Baseline Document
January 2026	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Addition of characteristics of effective teaching and learning</li><li>• Planning – rewording of final paragraph</li><li>• Safeguarding and welfare – addition of information PFA being with children when eating.</li><li>• Addition of hand-washing, self-care and healthy food choices.</li></ul>

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# EYFS Policy

## 1. 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.

We also aim to provide a high-quality foundation for lifelong learning by ensuring our EYFS practice reflects the four guiding principles: that every child is unique; that children learn through positive relationships; that children develop in enabling environments; and that children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates.

## 2. Legislation

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

This document also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

It also takes into account related guidance and statutory documents including:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE, 2025)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)
- The Equality Act 2010
- SEND Code of Practice (2015)
- Ofsted Early Years Inspection Handbook (2025)
- Public Health England: Oral Health Guidance (2024)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2023)
- Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements of the EYFS (2024 update)

### 3. Structure of the EYFS

At Stogursey CofE Primary School, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision is offered through both our Pre-school and our Reception class. Our Pre-school, known as *Little Acorns*, currently welcomes children aged 2–4 years. When children reach statutory school age, eligible pupils transition into our Reception cohort. Reception pupils are taught within a mixed-age class comprising Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children, collectively known as *Triscombe Class*.

Each EYFS setting meets the statutory requirements for Ofsted registration and operates under the governance of the Quantock Educational Trust. The EYFS Leader and the Executive Headteacher are responsible for ensuring consistency, high-quality curriculum delivery, and robust safeguarding practices across all EYFS provision.

### 4. Curriculum

Our early years setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the EYFS statutory framework.

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

Children are supported to make progress in the prime and specific area specified above considering the three Characteristics of Effective teaching and Learning (COEL) as outlined in the EYFS Statutory Framework. These are:

- 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.

#### 4.1 Planning

Staff plan activities and experiences for children that enable children to develop and learn effectively. In order to do this, staff working with the youngest children are expected to focus strongly on the 3 prime areas.

Staff also take into account the individual needs, interests, and stage of development of each child in their care, and use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience. Where a child may have a special educational need or disability, staff consider whether specialist support is required, linking with relevant services from other agencies, where appropriate.

In planning and guiding children's activities, staff reflect on the different ways that children learn and include these in their practice. Provision is adapted to ensure progression towards the Early Learning Goals and school readiness while maintaining a play-based ethos.

#### 4.2 Teaching

Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play, and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activities. Staff respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction.

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, ready for year 1.

#### 5. Assessment

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

When a child is **aged between 2 and 3**, staff review their progress and provide parents and/or carers with a written summary of the child's development in the 3 prime areas. This 'progress check' highlights the areas in which a child is progressing well and the areas in which additional support is needed.

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

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:

- Meeting expected levels of development
- Not yet reaching expected levels ('emerging')

The profile reflects ongoing observations, and discussions with parents and/or carers. The results of the profile are shared with parents and/or carers for their child.

The profile is moderated internally (referring to the Development Matters [guidance](#)) and in partnership with other local schools, to ensure consistent assessment judgements. EYFS profile data is submitted to the local authority.

## **6. Working with parents**

We recognise that children learn and develop well when there is a strong partnership between staff and parents and/or carers.

Parents and/or carers are kept up to date with their child's progress and development. The progress check and EYFS profile helps to provide parents and/or carers with a well-rounded picture of their child's knowledge, understanding and abilities.

Each child is assigned a key person (the class teacher) who helps to ensure that their learning and care is tailored to meet their needs. The key person supports parents and/or carers in guiding their child's development at home. The key person also helps families to engage with more specialist support, if appropriate.

## **7. 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:

- In the pre-school, for children aged 2, we have at least 1 member of staff for every 5 children.
- In the pre-school, for children aged 3 and over: we have at least 1 member of staff for every 8 children.
- Where there is a person with Qualified Teacher Status, Early Years Professional Status, Early Years Teacher Status or another approved level 6 qualification, an instructor or another suitably qualified overseas trained teacher: we have at least 1 member of staff for every 13 children.
- For classes where the majority of children will reach the age of 5 or older within the school year, we have at least 1 member of staff for every 30 children
- 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.

- 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.

We promote good oral health, as well as good health in general, in the early years by talking to children about:

- The effects of eating too many sweet things
- The importance of brushing your teeth

We follow [Public Health England guidance on supervised toothbrushing](#) to make sure that it is evidence-based and safe.

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 Rachel Rood (Headteacher) every 2 years. At every review, the policy will be shared with the local governing committee.

## Appendix 1. List of statutory policies and procedures for the EYFS

Statutory policy or procedure for the EYFS	Where can it be found?
Safeguarding policy and procedures	See child protection and safeguarding policy
Procedure for responding to illness	See health and safety policy
Administering medicines policy	See supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
Emergency evacuation procedure	See health and safety policy
Procedure for checking the identity of visitors	See child protection and safeguarding policy
Procedures for a parent failing to collect a child and for missing children	See child protection and safeguarding policy
Procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints	See complaints policy