



## Pilgrims' Way Primary School

### Early Years' Policy

Reviewed: Autumn Term 2019

Next Review Date: Autumn 2020

The Early Years Policy covers the Nursery and Reception classes at Pilgrim's Way Primary School. Our policy is linked to other policies in the school, including the core subject policies and the safeguarding policy.

Key early years documents: **EYFS Statutory Framework 2019 and Early Years Foundation Stage Assessment 2019** underpin the policy. The policy also links to the shared vision for the EYFS, developed by the whole EYFS team.

Our intent is to ensure that all children experience a nurturing, inclusive, thought provoking, rich, early years curriculum. We have high expectations of all children and ensure that through this curriculum children develop a love of learning and achieve their full potential. We implement our curriculum through effective early years practice and action-based research.

Children develop the three characteristics of effective learning: **Playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically**. We ensure that the four themes of the EYFS: **A unique child, positive relationships, enabling environments and learning and development** are given equal focus across our provision.

Our curriculum is personalised for each child to ensure that each child reaches their full potential. The curriculum is continually evaluated for the impact it is having on children's learning and to ensure children are well prepared for the next stage of their education.

The impact of our curriculum is evident in the rich range of experiences children experience and their good progress. The proportions of children

achieving a good level of development is rising to national and above national expectations.

Each child and their family are seen as unique and capable learners. We build relationships with our families by one to one meetings with families in the nursery and home visits at the start of the Reception Year.

Partnership with families and carers is at the centre of our practice. All parents and carers are invited to join Tapestry, our on-line learning journal where they can contribute to their child's learning journey. Children's progress is monitored termly and at the end of their Reception Year the statutory assessment for Year R is undertaken.

Transition to nursery, to Reception and to Year One is carefully planned to ensure children and their families feel confident and happy as they move to the next phase of their education.

The EYFS staff work effectively with the SENCO and with a range of outside agencies to support children and families. Children needing support or extension are identified and support provided quickly.

The 3 prime areas and the 4 specific areas are taught through a balance of play and adult directed learning. In both the Nursery and Reception there is a balance of play and direct teaching, to ensure that children reach the highest possible standards. The coverage of topics and books across the EYFS ensures that all areas of the curriculum are experienced and that children are extended and challenged in their learning.

The teaching of early literacy and maths is given high priority. Children's language and vocabulary is continually developed to provide a secure base for their achievement in literacy and maths.

Letters and Sounds and White Rose Maths is taught across Nursery and Reception. Children in Reception enjoy Accelerated Reader. The development of comprehension skills is directly taught to children through a balance of whole class and small group sessions.

Staff in the Early Years are qualified and experienced. All staff have regular supervision and on-going professional development. All staff in the early years are Paediatric First Aid trained. All staff in the early years have received safeguarding training (September 2018) and know who the DSL's are. Staff in the early years work closely and effectively as a team.

Safeguarding procedures are in place across the EYFS. The key documents: **Working together to safeguard children 2018 and Keeping Safe in Education 2018** underpin our practice. Risk assessments for all activities are in place and are continually reviewed. All areas of learning including the outside areas are checked daily to ensure safety.

**Policy written by Milena Anecchiarico EYFS leader.**