



Calder Learning Trust Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) policy

Approved by:

Governors

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Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Legislation	2
3. Structure of the EYFS	2
4. Curriculum	2
5. Assessment	3
6. Working with parents.....	4
7. Safeguarding and welfare procedures	4
8. Monitoring arrangements	4
Appendix 1. List of statutory policies and procedures for the EYFS.....	5

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

2. Legislation

This policy is based on requirements set out in the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\)](#) for 2023.

3. Structure of the EYFS

At Calder Primary School, The Calder Learning Trust our EYFS are our Reception Class. They are a class of 15 pupils and have a full time qualified class teacher and a class teaching assistant.

The school day is 8.45am to 3.15pm for all Reception pupils (unless a support plan is in place).

4. Curriculum

Our early years setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the latest 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

4.1 Planning

Our 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, practitioners reflect on the different ways that children learn and include these in their practice. They also show ambitious intent for all children and scaffold support to ensure all children make good progress from their starting points.

Staff are expected to develop a strong continuous provision, and then plan enhanced provision and additional adult directed activities to support this. As children progress through the EYFS, key group work, adult-directed and whole class work will be planned, as appropriate for the age and stage of the pupils.

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.

We teach Early Reading and Phonics through the Read Write Inc Scheme to ensure all pupils make a strong start with reading from the start of Reception. We follow the White Rose Maths Scheme from Reception all the way through to KS2 and then KS3 at Calder High.

Learning opportunities are planned not only in the classroom, but also outdoors, through the use of the outdoor area, our school site and our weekly Forest School 'Welly Wednesday' Pupils have 2 hours of PE teaching each week, one sports skills and one dance, gymnastics or yoga and resources to continue to develop these skills at playtimes and in continuous provision. Pupils have Spanish tuition from our specialist Spanish teacher each week and dedicated sessions for music and movement, Topic and RE.

5. Assessment

At Calder Learning Trust, ongoing assessment is an integral part of 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. We use the online learning platform Tapestry for this throughout the year, and to track Early Learning Goals in the summer term. For pupils with SEND, we can use the Tapestry tracker which is based on the Derbyshire Tracker for small steps progress.

Staff work with the pupils' previous EYFS setting to gather details of their learning journey and assessments so far. Then, 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 upon request.

6. Working with parents and carers

We recognise that children learn and develop well when there's 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. Staff meet with parents before children begin in Reception in the summer term and after they have settled in in October. They also meet for twice yearly parents' evenings. Staff are at the door each morning and evening as well.

The 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 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:

- We comply with infant class size legislation and have at least 1 teacher per 30 pupils
- 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 including in our curriculum and promoting with parents on our newsletters:

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

We teach E-safety across our EYFS in age appropriate ways and how to keep yourselves safe. We have annual visitors, for example the Road Safety Team to talk about safe travel by foot and car.

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 Governors every 2 years.

At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

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