

Create Learning Trust

Early Years Foundation Stage Policy – May 2026

All children deserve the care and support they need to have the best start in life. Children learn and develop at a faster rate from birth to five years old than at any other time in their lives, so their experiences in early years have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe, and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high-quality early learning provide the foundation children need to fulfil their potential.

*EYFS Statutory Framework January
2024*

At Create Learning Trust, we create success together

Our Common Principles

At Create Learning Trust, our practices are guided by the Early Years Statutory Framework January 2024 which sets out clear expectations for children's learning, development and their welfare.

- **A unique child**
- **Positive relationships**
- **Enabling environments**
- **Learning and development**

A Unique Child

Children develop rapidly during their early years - physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. They will come to school having experienced a wide range of pre-school provision that may include nursery, playgroup, childminder and, of course, home. We aim to provide an Early Years' education that supports and extends the knowledge, understanding, skills and confidence that the children have already gained from their pre-school experiences.

At Create Learning Trust we:

- Provide a safe, caring and enabling environment in which children can learn how to work, play and cooperate with others
- Ensure children develop their self-esteem and a sense of identity, positive attitudes to learning, self-motivation and independence
- Ensure children develop an awareness of the needs of others and an understanding of what is right and what is wrong
- Take time to understand the strengths, interests and needs of each child
- Recognise that children develop in individual ways, at varying rates
- Use praise and encouragement to support children in developing a positive attitude to learning

Equal Opportunities

We are committed to inclusive practice and ensure that all children, including those with SEND, disadvantaged pupils and those with protected characteristics, can access the full EYFS curriculum and achieve their potential. Ongoing assessments and additional formal screening, provide opportunities for the early identification of any special educational needs a child may have. A significant lack of progress will trigger concern and monitoring of that child. Concerns will be discussed with parents and with the SENDCO. Advice will be sought from other agencies where appropriate. All children in the EYFS are given the opportunity to achieve their best: the range of life experiences and abilities is considered when planning the learning.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

Create Learning Trust schools have due regard to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2015)

Positive Relationships

At Create Learning trust, we develop caring, respectful, professional relationships with the children and their families.

Transition

An effective transition is essential to starting a positive relationship with the child and their family and to secure a positive start into primary school life.

Therefore, we implement the following practices:

- The families who have accepted a place are contacted promptly following confirmation of places
- The parents are invited to attend an information meeting where they meet the Reception staff and receive relevant documentation, which includes detail on provision and speech and language support where needed
- The Early Years teacher will communicate with the previous settings
- The children are invited to attend on site visits to familiarise themselves with their new environment
- Ensure the children feel safe, secure and happy
- Continue to collaborate with parents and other professionals

Enabling Environments

The Early Years classrooms are organised to allow children to explore and learn safely and securely. Play forms the basis of learning and it is through play children are able to:

- Explore and develop learning experiences which help them make sense of the world
- Practise taught skills
- Learn how to regulate their emotions and understand the need for rules
- Communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems
- Express their fears and overcome difficulties
- Ensure social inclusion

Outdoor play is a very important part of children's development. In our Foundation Stage the outdoor play space is securely fenced and provides a safe play space where children can develop their physical skills and learn to share with others in structured and informal play. Across the Foundation Stage we encourage free flow between the classrooms and outdoor area. Activities set up outside support all areas of learning.

Health and Safety

All precautions are taken to ensure the health and well-being of the children in the reception class. The school ensures paediatric first aid requirements are met in line with the EYFS statutory framework. Staff make sure that equipment used and activities planned are safe and conform to current health and safety regulations. All educational visits will have a risk assessment carried out and recorded prior to the visit.

Safeguarding and welfare requirements follow the EYFS Statutory Framework (2024). All staff follow the school safeguarding policy and procedures. Concerns about a child's welfare are reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Learning and Development

Our EYFS curriculum is carefully sequenced to build knowledge and skills over time. Learning experiences are planned to develop children's understanding across the seven areas of learning while preparing them for the Key Stage 1 national curriculum.

Create Learning Trust schools provide a broad and balanced curriculum based on the 7 areas of learning:

Prime areas of learning:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development
- Communication and Language

Specific areas of learning:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive arts and design

We provide rich and varied experiences which support the **3 characteristics of effective learning**.

These are as follows:

- **Playing and exploring** – children investigate and experience a range of opportunities 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

Educational Programmes (Curriculum)

The **7 prime areas of learning** will involve the following opportunities:

- **Communication and Language Development** involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment: to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations
- **Physical Development** involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive, developing their co-ordination, control and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others, to form positive relationships and develop respect for others, to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings, to understand appropriate behaviour in groups and to have confidence in their own abilities

The **specific areas of learning** will involve the following opportunities:

- **Literacy** development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading and writing materials, to develop their interest. EYFS staff teach children to read systematically through systematic synthetic phonics

and books that match the children's phonic knowledge. EYFS staff constantly observe what is popular amongst the children in Early Years and activities are planned accordingly.

- **Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, subitising, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems and to describe numerical patterns.
- **Understanding the World** involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.
- **Expressive arts and design** involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as, providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design and technology.

Where necessary, we adapt our curriculum and teaching and learning to promote well being and success for children with SEND.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

On entry to school, children will complete the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment within the first six weeks of starting Reception. Ongoing formative assessment informs planning and next steps. Practitioners observe children during daily learning and use this information to shape future teaching. Each child is screened using the Wellcomm tool for communication and language.

Assessment plays an important part in helping practitioners and parents to understand the progress children are making. Many of our assessments happen throughout day to day teaching and recognises the children's interests to reshape future planning.

We use Class Dojo to record any observations and parents are encouraged to add to the children's profile in this way.

A written report is sent to parents at the end of their time in Reception, reporting achievement and progress across the 7 areas of learning.

Teaching and Learning

Features of high-quality teaching and learning in the EYFS include:

- An effective partnership between teachers and parents
- A strong understanding of personal development linked to our school ethos
- A clear understanding of how children develop and learn
- Clear aims and objectives
- Regular monitoring and evaluation of practice to secure continued progress
- A range of teaching approaches – including effective interventions which close gaps rapidly and effectively
- A carefully planned curriculum that helps children achieve the Early Learning Goals
- The provision for children to take part in activities that build on and extend their interests and develop their intellectual, physical, social and emotional skills

- The encouragement for children to develop their independence and self-management
- Appropriate and accessible indoor and outdoor spaces, facilities and equipment
- High quality ongoing assessment which identifies the attainment, progress and future learning needs of the children
- Continuing professional development of all adults working within the Foundation Stage

Create Learning Trust's Early Years Hub

Create Learning Trust have developed an Early Years hub dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for our youngest learners. Our collaborative approach to this hub's work draws on the expertise of many practitioners dedicated to the effective delivery of high-quality practices.

Year 1 Transition

The EYFS Statutory Framework and the current Ofsted Education Inspection Framework outline the importance of preparing children in the EYFS for the national curriculum. Children in Year 1 continue to benefit from approaches that build on effective EYFS practice while beginning the National Curriculum., therefore, at Create Learning Trust, Year 1 transition is a process (not an event). During the second half of the summer term, staff in EYFS will consider how to prepare their children for Year 1 learning in parallel with identified Year 1 staff understanding the EYFS final judgements for each child. Relationships with the children's Year 1 staff will start to develop and Year 1 staff will consider how to ensure their environments continue to be 'enabling' as they were in the EYFS setting.

An effective transition process for the children with an identified SEND is critical in ensuring success for this group of children. At Create Learning Trust there is an extensive handover of identified need, how to enable the child to progress in their new environment, information sharing between colleagues and an end of year meeting with parents of children with SEND to reassure and help them understand the transition process.