

The Early Years Foundation Stage

Information for Parents and Carers

At The Dharma Primary School we strive to maintain the highest standards in Early Years education, as set out in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

The EYFS is based on four important principles. These are:

- 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; and
- **children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates**. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

What does all this mean?

- Young children learn best through play and first hand experience.
- Practitioners provide your child with a range of appropriate play and learning experiences for their stage of development and help them develop new skills.
- The activities that are provided for young children will underpin the skills they need to work towards the *Early Learning Goals* in the following areas at the end of their reception year at school.
 - Communication and language
 - Physical Development
 - Personal, social and emotional development
 - Literacy

- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Parents as Partners

- It is important to remember that you know more about your own child than anyone else.
- Practitioners will ask you regularly about your child and share information with you about their progress.
- Information from home about your child's interests, achievements and challenges which happen outside school will be encouraged, valued and noted.
- The part you play in their learning is fundamental, and practitioners will regularly suggest practical ways you can support your child's learning at home.
- Practitioners will actively welcome your involvement, as parents, at every level.
- More information for parents can be found at www.foundationyears.org.uk

Meeting Your Child's Needs

- The EYFS supports a fully inclusive approach.
- By getting to know your child, observing their play, talking and playing with them, practitioners can plan exciting experiences which are appropriate for developmental needs and interests.
- Regular observations of your child are carried out in a range of contexts. These help practitioners to find out how to develop children's skills and interests further. Observations can inform practitioners what to plan next.
- Planning, although rigorous, is always flexible so practitioners can meet the changing needs and play interests of children.
- If a child's progress in any prime area gives cause for concern, practitioners will discuss this with you and together agree how to best support your child. We will consider whether a child may have a special educational need or disability, and seek specialist advice and support from other agencies if appropriate.

"We don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing" George Bernard Shaw

Why do Children need to play?

It enables them to.....

- Explore, develop and represent learning experiences that help them make sense of the world around them
- Learn how to control impulses and understand the need for rules and boundaries
- Practise and build up ideas, concepts and skills

- Be alone and be alongside others
- Take risks and make mistakes
- Think creatively and imaginatively
- Investigate and solve problems

Why Outdoor Learning?

It allows children to

- Be physically co-ordinated
- Be physically and mentally healthy
- Become resilient to life, develop confidence / self esteem
- Have space and freedom to move all their muscles
- Develop play and learning which is memorable
- Experience multi-sensory learning
- Use a range of different learning styles

*“Remember that what your child brings home in
their head is more important than what
they bring home in their hands.”*