

## **Introduction**

The early years at Saxon Wood includes children in both Willow Class (Nursery) and Oak Class (Year R). This Policy covers the curriculum for pupils two years old until the end of Year R and incorporates the curriculum guidance for the foundation stage.

The curriculum is divided into 7 areas of learning and development. Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first. These are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design.

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. Staff will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it is suitable for very young children. It is designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests. Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

## **Progress Checks**

At some point after your child turns 2 the EYFS guidelines state that you should receive a written summary of how your child is progressing against the 3 prime areas of learning. At Saxon Wood we fulfil this requirement by holding 6 monthly reviews for nursery children.

These reviews are held prior to your child's assessment for an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP). Once your child has an EHCP their progress will be reviewed in accordance with statutory guidelines for EHCPs (which at present is an annual review).

Staff in the nursery will start the EHCP assessment process after your child has been with us for a term. This document will involve setting long term outcomes for your child and involve assessments by a range of health and educational professionals.

In addition to these formal progress checks, staff at the nursery will keep in regular contact with parents and parents are welcome at any time to meet with staff to receive feedback on their child's progress or raise any concerns they may have. Parents will also be able to see the learning journals that are kept to record their child's progress.

## **Aims**

The EYFS Framework aims to provide children with:

- A stable environment offering new challenges and opportunities for learning
- Their 'own' time and space in which to explore the environment, set their own challenges and make their own discoveries
- Access to a broad range of activities
- Opportunities to learn through first hand experience
- Opportunities for imaginative play.

## **Key Principles**

The curriculum for this stage is defined as the educational programme, or what we want children to learn, what we plan and provide to help them learn as well as everything the children do, see, hear and feel. It includes unplanned and planned activities. Playing and communication are the main ways through which young children acquire knowledge about themselves and the world around them. Well planned play, both indoors and outdoors, is a key way in which young children learn with enjoyment and challenge. They need a secure environment with effective adult support in which to play. A high quality curriculum:

- is in the hands of the staff
- is dependent on the staff and parents working together
- ensures that children are secure and confident
- builds on what children already know and extends their interests
- uses varied approaches and teaching methods
- recognises feelings and involves other people
- encourages children to learn for themselves
- is dynamic.

The curriculum planning for the early years ensures a planned progression from EYFS to KS1. The proportion of individual work undertaken will change from Willow Class (Nursery) to Oak Class and Cherry Class as pupils become more independent.

## **Related Documents**

Learning Journals  
Foundation Stage Profile  
EYFS Framework.

## **Arrangements for Review**

This Policy will be reviewed in 2020 as part of the five year rolling programme, or before if required.

Ref: EYFScurrpol