



# CHEETWOOD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## EYFS Policy

**Written: October 2022**  
**To be reviewed October 2023**

**Judged to be GOOD by Ofsted in March 2018.**

*"This is a highly inclusive school, where everyone feels safe, respected and valued.  
Pupils enjoy school and are very keen to learn".*

## **Cheetwood Community Primary School EYFS Policy**

### **EYFS Curriculum Intent**

At Cheetwood Primary School, we provide a high-quality Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) education giving children a secure and confident start to their school life. We are committed to nurturing a lifelong love of learning alongside the aims of the EYFS statutory framework. We strive for high standards, consider the development of the whole child and seek to foster resilience and independence.

We aim to provide the essential knowledge that children need, to prepare them for their future success and to give children the best possible start to their early education.

We provide engaging, rich and stimulating classroom environments, indoors and outdoors, to stimulate learners and engage them in developing the three 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' as set out within the EYFS.

#### Staffing & Organisation

At Cheetwood Primary school, we have one nursery class which caters for 26 children, and one Reception class which caters for 30 children.

#### EYFS Team

Reception class teacher and EYFS Lead: Clair Walklett

Nursery class teacher: Gemma Cleary

EYFS class teaching assistants:

Lie Drameh, Sofia Arif and Angela Chan

Children come to our school from a range of local pre-school settings and nurseries.

The EYFS curriculum encompasses our school aims:

*To provide a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum, which raises attainment and promotes the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, emotional and physical development of all pupils, within a safe learning environment that is underpinned by British values.*

*To work in partnership with parents/carers, the governing body, local community and other supporting agencies to prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of 21<sup>st</sup> century Britain.*

We carefully plan our EYFS curriculum to meet the following aims:

- Foster a love of learning which inspires curiosity.
- Provide experiences of awe and wonder.
- Ensure all children have access to high quality learning opportunities.

- Provide parents/carers with the opportunity to develop their child's learning at home.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the community and wider world.
- Increase the percentage of children achieving the GLD within the EYFSP so that it is in line with, or above, the national average.

### **EYFS Curriculum Implementation**

To achieve our aims we provide:

- Quality first teaching across all areas of the curriculum.
- Stimulating learning environments, indoors and outdoors.
- Well planned and organised continuous provision which allows the children to learn through play.
- A carefully planned balance of adult-led and child-initiated learning opportunities.
- Promote a love of learning through real life experiences and opportunities to build on prior learning.
- Close links with Early Years Settings which support a smooth and settled transition into school.
- Strong parental partnerships which empower parents/carers to support their child's learning at home.
- Systematic approaches to teaching reading to ensure all children learn to read; high quality phonics teaching is started as soon as children begin school.
- Opportunities for children and families to develop a love of reading.
- Planned opportunities for outdoor learning in the outdoor classroom.
- Targeted interventions delivered across EYFS to support children's individual needs and progress.

### **EYFS Curriculum Impact**

- High levels of engagement and motivation demonstrated from children which supports them to become lifelong learners.
- Confident and capable readers who demonstrate a love of reading.
- Evidence of strong links with parents/carers.
- Children demonstrate the characteristics of effective learning and are well prepared for the next stage in their learning.
- Children feel happy and safe and enjoy coming to school.
- All children access a balanced and challenging curriculum, respecting background, needs and abilities.

- Children make strong progress from their starting points and are offered a broad curriculum which meets each child's unique needs.
- Children are supported by adults that are well trained and passionate about providing the best education for every child.
- To raise the percentage of children achieving the GLD within the EYFSP so that it is in line with, or above, the national average.

### **Learning in the EYFS**

#### **Play, Scaffolding, Modelling, Observing, Guided Learning, Direct Teaching**

In our classroom, you may see children playing alone or with their peers, deciding on resources and choosing how to spend their time. You may see a child playing and listening to an adult, who is modelling how to achieve something or teaching a new skill that interests the child.

Adults may scaffold a child's play. This involves taking their play to higher levels of learning, entering the play as a co-creator and helping to create a framework for the children to go from "what they know" to "what else they could know". Scaffolding enables a child to solve a problem, carry out a task or achieve a goal which is just beyond his or her abilities. During play, where foundational social and emotional skills are developed, scaffolding is a bridge to new skill levels using three key ingredients; modelling the skill, giving clues and asking questions while the child is trying out a new skill, and then as the child approaches mastery, withdrawing the support.

The EYFS statutory framework does not prescribe a particular teaching approach.

*"Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults."*

The EYFS team carefully plan what the children learn in the classroom and through provision, which enables them to learn from their interests, alongside extending their knowledge and understanding through direct teaching.

Each day, we stimulate children's interests, respond to each child's emerging needs and guide their development through warm, positive interactions, coupled with

secure routines for play and learning.

As the children develop their skills and progress throughout the reception year, we use more direct teaching and modelling and plan specific sequences of lessons. These strategies help us to focus on teaching the essential skills and knowledge in the specific areas of learning so that the children can develop the skills and confidence required for the end of their reception year.

## **Seven Key Features of Effective Practice**

### **1. The best for every child**

At Cheetwood all children are given an equal chance of success. We ensure that we provide them with every opportunity to achieve their full potential irrespective of gender, ability, ethnicity and social circumstances.

- We ensure that all children have access to high quality early education.
- We pay particular attention to those children from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure we can 'narrow the gap' and provide high-quality early education and care which is inclusive for all children. Children's special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are identified quickly and all children promptly receive any extra support they need, so that they can progress well in their learning.

### **2. High-quality care**

- Practitioners ensure the children's experience is the central focus of thinking.
- We ensure our young children are well cared for to enable them to thrive.
- High-quality care is consistent. All practitioners enjoy spending time with young children and this is reflected in their interactions with children.
- Practitioners are responsive to children and ensure they form effective and positive relationships with all children.
- Practitioners support children to develop their independence
- Practitioners work alongside a range of outside agencies to ensure high quality care and support of the individual needs of children within EYFS are met.

### **3. The Curriculum**

The curriculum is well planned to ensure we identify 'what we want' the children to learn.

- We ensure planning helps every child to develop their language skills.
- The curriculum is ambitious. Careful sequencing will help children to build their learning over time.
- Planning is flexible to ensure children's interests are used to drive the children's learning and development.
- We ensure that depth in early learning is achieved through spending time embedding the children's learning.

#### **4. Pedagogy**

- Every child is enabled to make progress in their learning, with the right help.
- We utilise different approaches to learning to ensure all children make progress
- Children learn through play, by adults modelling, by observing each other, and through guided learning and direct teaching.
- Practitioners carefully organise enabling environments for high-quality play.
- Children in our early years also learn through group work, when practitioners guide their learning.
- As the children develop throughout the year, they are given more guided learning.
- We have a well-planned learning environment, indoors and outdoors.

#### **5. Assessment**

At Cheetwood Primary School, ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning and development cycle.

- Assessments are completed to inform planning and support the practitioners in identifying children who need additional support.
- Assessment is based upon a secure knowledge of child development.
- Practitioners have a clear expectation about what children need to know and how best to support them in developing their learning.
- Accurate assessment is used to highlight whether a child has a special educational need or requires extra help.
- Our Cheetwood EYFS attainment tracker is used as a valuable tool to assess children's development and to show progress over time.
- Regular team meetings take place to enable practitioners to review and evaluate children's learning and to inform next steps.

- 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.

## **6. Self – regulation**

As part of our 'Personal, Social, Emotional Development' teaching provision we support each child's ability to:

- hold information in mind
- focus their attention
- think flexibly
- develop a range of strategies to manage their own behaviour

These abilities contribute to the child's growing ability to self-regulate:

- concentrate their thinking
- plan what to do next
- monitor what they are doing and adapt
- regulate strong feelings
- be patient for what they want
- bounce back when things get difficult.

## **7. Safeguarding**

We promote good oral health, as well as good health and well-being in general, in the early years by talking to children about:

- The importance of brushing their teeth
- The importance of exercise and healthy eating
- The effects of eating too many sweet things
- The importance of good hygiene such as, hand washing

- Road safety
- Stranger Danger
- Keeping safe in the sun
- Hazards in the home
- E-safety
- How to risk take in a safe way, observing the environment around them

We follow [statutory guidance](#) for safety around supervised tooth brushing.

The remainder of our safeguarding and welfare procedures are outlined in the school's safeguarding policy.

### **Partnership with parents**

At Cheetwood Primary School we recognise that parents/ carers have a very important role to play in the education of their child. We strongly encourage good communication between parents/carers and teachers on a regular basis both formally and informally. Here are some of the ways that we establish a strong and respectful partnership in the early years which enables children to thrive:

- We listen regularly to parents and give parents/carers clear information about their children's progress through face to face opportunities and learning review meetings
- Parents/carers are encouraged to support their child's learning and development at home as this has a significant impact on their child's learning.
- We take the time to 'get to know' and understand the children and their families enabling us to offer support as needed.
- We carry out home visits before the children start school in September, this provides the foundation for strong and effective partnerships with parents/carers.
- 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 / carers in guiding their child's development at home. The key person also helps families to engage with more specialist support, if appropriate.

- Parents/carers are invited into school for a 'Stay and Play' session with their child prior to starting school. This provides parents/carers with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the classroom environment, meet the EYFS staff and other parents/carers.
- Parents/carers are given the opportunity throughout the year to engage in the wider school community.
- Parents/carers are invited into school for regular meetings to provide an update about their child's learning and progress.
- Children with SEND or additional needs have in-depth 'conversations' to ensure targets and progress are shared.
- We are flexible in our approach to communicating with parents/carers and adapt our communication methods to suit different preferences.

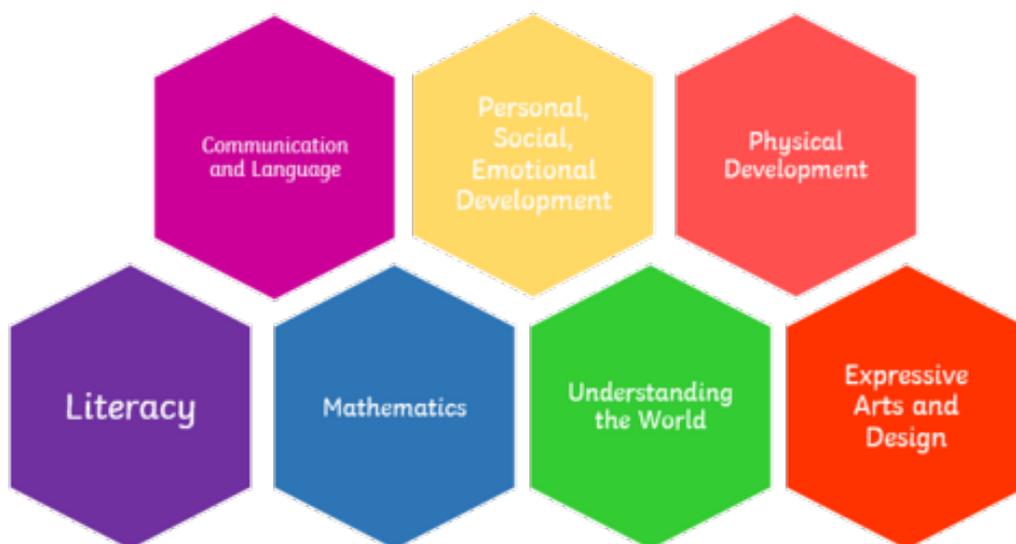
### **EYFS Statutory Framework**

Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning describe behaviours children use in order to learn. To learn well, children must approach opportunities with curiosity, energy and enthusiasm. Effective learning must be meaningful to a child, so that they are able to use what they have learned and apply it in new situations. These abilities and attitudes of strong learners will support them to learn well and make good progress in all the Areas of Learning and Development.

The three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- Playing and exploring – children investigate and experience things, 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.

### **Areas of Learning and Development**



Prime areas of development and learning lay vital foundations in the early years.

The three prime areas are:

Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development.

The four specific areas are:

Literacy, Maths, Understanding of the World, Expressive Arts and Design which build on the development gained through the prime areas.

**When we give every child the best start in their early years, we give them what they need today. We also set them up with every chance of success tomorrow.**

**Development Matters [DfE, 2021]**