



THE BEACON

Early Years Foundation Stage General Policy

Review cycle:	Every year
Review by:	A Team, G(Ed)
Last Governor Approval:	Spring 2026
Next Governor Approval:	Spring 2027
Current Version:	8

Policies linked to:

- Curriculum Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- First Aid and Medicines Policy and Procedure
- Fire Safety, Procedures and Risk Assessment Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Risk Assessment Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Attendance Register Policy
- Equal Opportunities/anti-prejudicial discrimination policy for pupils
- Recruitment Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- E Safety Policy
- Employment Manual
- Photograph and Social Media Policy
- School Trips Policy
- IT Acceptable Use Policy for Personal Devices
- Intimate Care Policy

This document also appears on:

- Staff Intranet

Contents:

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Roles and Responsibilities
3. Learning and Development
4. The Learning Environment and Outdoor Spaces
5. Inclusion
6. Assessment
7. Safeguarding and Welfare
8. Mobile Phones and Devices
9. Health and safety
10. Food and Drink
11. Staff Taking Medication or Other Substances
12. Staffing
13. Information and Records
14. Communication
15. Trips
16. Parental Involvement
17. Transition
18. Monitoring and Review

Statement of intent

At The Beacon, we greatly value the importance of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in providing a secure foundation for future learning and development.

This policy has been developed in conjunction with Statutory Framework for Early Years September 2025

The Statutory Framework for Early Years states, “Every child deserves the care and support 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 of their lives, so their experiences have a major impact on 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.”

The Early Years Foundation Stage applies to children from birth to the end of their Reception Year. At The Beacon School, children can join us from the age of three.

We ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. We promote teaching and learning to ensure children’s ‘school readiness’ and give children a broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

The following four guiding principles shape our practise

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 with teaching and support from adults**, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.

Importance of **learning and development**. Children develop and learn at different rates. The framework covers the education and care of all children, including children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

In line with the EYFS principles, at The Beacon School we:

- Provide quality and consistency across both the Little Beacons and Reception Classes

- Have a key person approach which develops close relationships with individual children
- Provide a secure and safe learning environment indoors and out
- Provide a balanced curriculum
- Plan challenging and enjoyable learning experiences, based on the individual child, informed by observation, assessment and the child's interest
- Provide opportunities for children to engage in activities that are both adult-initiated and child-initiated
- Work in partnership with parents and within the wider context
- Provide equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every pupil is included and supported.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to statutory legislation, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Childcare Act 2006
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)

This policy has due regard to Development Matters (2023) and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2025) 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'
- DfE (2025) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2023) 'Working together to safeguard children'
- DfE (2023) 'The prevent duty'

This policy is intended to be used in conjunction with the school policies listed on page 1 of this document.

Roles and responsibilities

The Board of Governors has the overall responsibility for ensuring there is a policy in place to safeguard children that includes an explanation of the action to be taken when there are safeguarding concerns about a child, the use of mobile phones and cameras, and staff safeguarding training requirements. These issues are addressed in part in this policy and in further detail in the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The Headmaster has the overall responsibility for ensuring there is a policy in place in the event of an allegation being made against a member of the Early Years staff. These issues are addressed in the school's Policy and Procedure on Complaints.

The Board of Governors has the overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy.

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for ensuring that this policy does not discriminate on any grounds, including, but not limited to, ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

The Head of EYFS, in conjunction with the Head of Pre-Prep, has responsibility for the day-to-day implementation and management of this policy.

Staff, including teachers, support staff and volunteers, are responsible for familiarising themselves with, and following, this policy.

Staff, including teachers, support staff and volunteers, are responsible for remaining alert to any issues of concern in children.

3. Learning and development

- 3.1. The EYFS curriculum is based on an observation of children's needs, interests and stages of development.
- 3.2. In partnership with parents, the school promotes the learning and development of pupils to ensure they are ready for the next stage of education.
- 3.3. There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape education programmes in EYFS settings. These are split into two sections – prime and specific; however, all the sections are interconnected and important. The Statutory Framework (2025) and Development Matters (2023) detail more information about the different areas of learning and the expectations children must achieve at the end of the Early Years.
- 3.4. The 'prime' areas of learning and development are:

- Communication and language
 - Listening, attention and understanding
 - Speaking
- Physical development
 - Gross motor skills
 - Fine motor skills
- Personal, social and emotional development
 - Self-regulation
 - Managing self
 - Building relationships

The 'specific' areas of learning and development are:

- Literacy
 - Comprehension
 - Word reading
 - Writing
- Mathematics
 - Numbers
 - Numerical patterns
- Understanding the world
 - Past and present
 - People, culture and communities
 - The natural world
- Expressive arts and design
 - Creating with materials

- Being imaginative and expressive

3.5. The early learning goals (ELGs) above are not used as a curriculum or in any way to limit the wide variety of rich experiences that are crucial to child development. The ELGs are used to support teachers to make a holistic, best-fit judgement about a child's development and their readiness for Year 1.

3.6. Activities are planned to reflect children's interests and individual circumstances in order to provide each child with a challenging and enjoyable experience.

3.7. The EYFS class teacher will discuss any cause for concern in a child's progress, especially in the prime areas of learning, with the child's parents. A strategy of support will be agreed upon and consideration will be taken as to whether the child may have a special educational need or disability which requires additional support.

3.8. The school takes reasonable steps to provide opportunities for children with EAL to use their home language in play and learning whilst also ensuring that these children have sufficient opportunities to reach a good standard of English. During assessment, if a child is found to not have a strong grasp of English, the EYFS class teacher will contact the child's parents to establish their home language skills to assess if there is cause for concern about a language delay. Support may be received from Learning Support.

3.9. Each area of learning and development will be implemented through a mix of adult-led and pupil-initiated activities.

3.10. The school will respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through friendly and positive interaction.

3.11. Activities are planned with regard to the three characteristics of effective teaching and learning in the EYFS:

- Playing and exploring – children investigate and experience things.
- Active learning – children concentrate, keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy their achievements.
- Creating and thinking critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

3.12. Observations and assessments are recorded in a variety of ways, including using an online tool, Tapestry. Parents are able to view their child's ongoing profile and upload evidence to support the class teacher's judgements.

4. The Learning Environment and Outdoor Spaces

- 4.1. The classroom is organised in such a way that children can explore and learn independently and collaboratively in a safe environment.
- 4.2. There is a toilet facility centrally located in Oakway for Reception pupils and there are separate toilets for Nursery pupils, which are located at the back of their classroom.
- 4.3. Children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area, and daily outdoor activities are planned, unless circumstances, such as the weather, would make outdoor activity inappropriate and unsafe.
- 4.4. The Head of Early Years is responsible for ensuring that staff are aware of the correct procedure for checking the outdoor play area. Staff will check all areas including the climbing equipment before allowing the pupils to go outdoors.
- 4.5. Staff will:
 - ensure gates are secure
 - report any dangerous materials or damage to the play area to the Facilities Manager and/ or the Head of Early Years
 - organise play materials appropriately to meet the needs of the pupils
 - supervise pupils at all times, adhering to EYFS regulations and ratios
 - count the number of pupils playing outside on each occasion
- 4.6. Staff will undertake to:
 - provide resources that cover all aspects of the curriculum
 - provide a range of good quality, safe outdoor toys such as small/large apparatus and wheeled toys
 - present resources in a stimulating manner
 - provide resources that allow pupils to make choices
- 4.7. Pupils are required to help tidy away the toys and equipment, when necessary. This encourages independence and teaches the pupils to take care of resources.

4.8. It is important that children go out in all weathers and experience the seasons accordingly. During the summer, when the weather is hot, parents are asked to provide sun hats and appropriate clothing. In winter, the pupils are encouraged to continue with outdoor activities. Parents are requested to provide appropriate clothing such as hats and gloves.

5. Inclusion

- 5.1. All children are valued as individuals irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, background, ability or gender.
- 5.2. The EYFS curriculum is planned in order to meet the needs of the individual child and support them at their own pace.
- 5.3. The Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEN/D) Policy ensures all children receive the support they need and are given the best learning experience possible.
- 5.4. SEN/D in the EYFS setting will be monitored and managed by the SENCO.

6. Assessment

- 6.1. Assessment plays an important part in helping the school to recognise children's progress, understand their needs, plan activities, and assess the need for support.
- 6.2. In the Autumn term, we administer on a one-to-one basis, the 'on entry' Cambridge Primary Insight BASE assessment (summative) for all Reception pupils giving standardised baseline data in Literacy and Mathematics. In the Summer Term, the Reception pupils complete the Cambridge Primary Insight 'end of year' BASE assessment giving standardised data and allowing for analysis of progress across the year to be made. In Little Beacons (Nursery) we administer on a one-to-one basis the 'start of year' and 'end of year' Cambridge Primary Insight Aspects assessments in the Autumn and Summer term.
- 6.3. Parents will be kept up-to-date with their child's progress and development, and the EYFS class teacher will address any learning and development needs in partnership with parents.
- 6.4. The online tool 'Tapestry' is shared with parents so they are aware of their child's development.

- 6.5. Formative assessments are used to assess the learning and development of children in the EYFS. Staff members will observe children to understand their level of achievement, interests and learning styles. This information will then be used to shape learning experiences for each child.
- 6.6. Reasonable adjustments will be made to the assessment process for children with SEN/D as appropriate.
- 6.7. In the final term, the EYFS profile is completed for each child and made available to parents and Year 1 teachers.
- 6.8. The EYFS profile results are shared with the local authority, when requested by them.
- 6.9. Formal reports for all pupils in Little Beacons and Reception pupils are provided at the end of the Autumn and Summer terms.
- 6.10. Parents' evenings are held in the Autumn and Summer term.

7. Safeguarding and welfare

- 7.1. All necessary steps are taken to keep the children in our care safe and well.
- 7.2. Any safeguarding or welfare issues will be dealt with in line with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and all members of staff in the EYFS are required to read this policy.
- 7.3. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Steve Miles.
- 7.4. The Additional Safeguarding Lead (ASL) for Pre-Prep is Sandy Drury.
- 7.5. The DSL is responsible for safeguarding children and liaising with local children's services as appropriate.
- 7.6. The ASL will undertake the duties of the DSL in their absence, but overall responsibility for safeguarding will remain with the DSL.
- 7.7. The DSL and ASL will undertake child protection training as required.
- 7.8. Staff will receive safeguarding training that enables them to understand the safeguarding policy and procedures, have up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding issues, and recognise signs of potential abuse and neglect.
- 7.9. EYFS staff receive termly supervision which provides support, guidance and development and promotes the interests of pupils. They foster a culture of

mutual support, teamwork and continuous improvement which encourages the confidential discussion of sensitive issues. It also provides further opportunities for staff to discuss any issues particularly concerning pupil development and well-being.

7.10. The meetings are hosted by the Head of Pre-Prep or Head of Early Years on a one-to-one basis and are for all staff that work in the Early Years, including teaching assistants.

8. Mobile phones and devices

8.1. For the purposes of this policy, the term 'mobile phone' refers to any electronic device that can be used to take images or record videos, including tablets, smart watches and any device with imaging and sharing capabilities.

8.2. Photography policies and procedures are addressed in full in our Code of Conduct for Staff and IT Acceptable Use Policy for Personal Devices and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Use of mobile phones by staff members:

8.3. Staff members must not use personal mobile phones or cameras when children are present.

8.4. Staff may use mobile phones on school premises outside of working hours when no children are present.

8.5. Staff may use mobile phones in the staffroom during breaks and non-contact time.

8.6. Mobile phones should be safely stored and in silent mode whilst children are present.

8.7. Staff may take mobile phones on trips and welly walks, but they must only be used in emergencies and should not be used when children are present. Mobile phones must not be used to take images or videos at any time during trips.

8.8. Staff who do not adhere to this policy will face disciplinary action.

8.9. Staff may use their professional judgement in emergency situations.

8.10. Staff must report any concerns about another staff member's use of mobile phones to the DSL, following the procedures outlined in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Use of mobile phones by parents, visitors and contractors:

8.11. Parents, visitors and contractors are not permitted to take photographs or record videos without prior permission.

8.12. Parents may take photographs and videos during school events for their personal use.

8.13. The school strongly advises against the publication of any photographs or videos taken at the school or school events on social media.

8.14 Staff must report all concerns about parents, visitors and contractors to the DSL, following the procedures outlined in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Use of the school's mobile phones and cameras:

8.15. Staff are provided with a school device to ensure that only school devices are used to take photographs and videos.

8.16. School devices have passcode protection.

8.17. School devices are only used for work related matters.

8.18. School devices must not be taken off school premises without prior permission from the Head of Pre-Prep or Head of Early Years.

8.19. Where staff members have concerns over material on a school device, they must report all concerns to the DSL, following the procedures outlined in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

8.20. Photographs and recordings are uploaded to Tapestry (online learning journal) in order to record observations and assessments made by the staff. All photos and recordings are approved by the Head of Early Years.

9. Health and safety

9.1. The school's First Aid and Medicine Policy outlines the procedures for administering medicines.

9.2. A first-aid box is in the staff loo in Oakway.

- 9.3. The EYFS class teacher or teaching assistant will report any accident or injury involving a child to their parents on the day it occurs, and any first-aid treatment administered to a child will also be reported to their parents.
- 9.4. Minor accidents and injuries will be recorded in an accident book, located in the first-aid bag.
- 9.5. Major accidents, injuries and all head injuries will be assessed by the Medical team and will be recorded using Medical Tracker.
- 9.6. The school has a Fire Evacuation Plan as outlined in the Fire Safety, Procedures and Risk Assessment Policy.
- 9.7. Information about any dietary requirements, preferences, food allergies and any special health requirements will be passed onto Medical Centre staff and recorded on the medical files on SharePoint for all staff to access.
- 9.8. Smoking and vaping is not permitted on the school premises.

10. Food and Drink

- 10.1. Fresh water is available throughout the day for the pupils to drink.
- 10.2. During the morning and afternoon, pupils are offered water or milk and a snack. If pupils stay after school in the Late Stay provision, parents can send in a healthy snack; if grapes, cherry tomatoes or olives are brought in, they must always be cut in half lengthways as they are a common choking hazard.
- 10.3. The school lunches are cooked on the premises and are of excellent quality, providing a choice of healthy, balanced and nutritious options. Parents should inform the school if their child has any special dietary requirements. The weekly menu is available on the website at the start of each week.
- 10.4. Early Years staff and at least two lunchtime supervisors are on duty overseeing the Reception pupils using the cafeteria service and eating their lunch. Nursery staff oversee lunch with the Nursery pupils. Pupils are in sight and hearing of an adult when eating. All staff encourage good table manners and politeness. The pupils are expected to eat a reasonable sized portion and are encouraged to taste unfamiliar foods, but they are never forced. Staff will inform parents if their child regularly eats little at school.

10.5. Staff involved in preparing and handling of food have had training in basic food hygiene- this is an online course completed on Educare. When children take part in cooking activities they:

- Are supervised at all times
- Understand the importance of hand washing and simple hygiene rules
- Are kept away from hot surfaces and hot water

11. Staff taking medication or other substances

11.1. The school implements a zero-tolerance approach to drugs and alcohol misuse, as outlined in the Code of Conduct for Staff.

11.2. The use of alcohol or any other substance that may affect the ability to care for children by a member of staff will not be tolerated. If there is a reason to believe a member of staff is under the influence of alcohol or any other substance, they will not be allowed to work directly with children and further action will be taken.

11.3. Any member of staff taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children will seek medical advice. Staff will only be allowed to work directly with the children if it is confirmed that the medication is unlikely to impair their ability to look after children properly.

11.4. Any medication used by staff is securely stored in the Medical Centre.

12. Staffing

12.1. A robust Recruitment Policy is in place, which aims to ensure that members of staff employed to work in the EYFS are suitable.

12.2. Upon employment, all EYFS staff receive induction training to ensure that they understand their roles and responsibilities, including information about emergency evacuation procedures, safeguarding, child protection and health and safety.

12.3. Staff will be supported to undertake the appropriate training and professional development to ensure children receive the best quality learning experience.

- 12.4. The school provides a staffing ratio in line with the safeguarding and welfare requirements set out in the ‘Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (2025)’.
- 12.5. There will be at least one member of staff on the school premises at all times who has a current full paediatric first-aid (PFA) certificate.
- 12.6. The school will organise PFA training to be renewed every three years.
- 12.7. The list of staff who hold PFA certificates can be found in Matron’s office.
- 12.8. In Reception, the class teacher is the key person so that every child’s care is tailored to meet their individual needs. Each pupil in Nursery has a key worker who is responsible for looking after their needs. The Nursery class teacher is responsible for overseeing all Nursery pupils.
- 12.9. The class teachers have QTS.
- 12.10. Six EYFS Teaching Assistants (TAs) hold a Level 3 qualification or higher. There are seven TAs in the department.
- 12.11. The school provides regular in-service training to all staff, both through external agencies and in-house.
- 12.12. The school provides new staff induction training in the first term of employment.

13. Information and records

- 13.1. Information is stored in line with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, and with regard to the school’s Data Protection Policy.
- 13.2. The ‘Contact & Medical Details’ form (issued for new pupils) asks parents to specify at least one email address and one mobile phone number per family that we can use to contact them. Parents are requested to ensure that the School Office has up-to-date contact details at all times

14. Communication

- 14.1. Parents who are unable to meet the class teacher at pick-up and drop-off can write simple messages in their child's home contact book. The book is read daily by the class teacher or teaching assistant.
- 14.2. Parents can e-mail a member of staff and a response will be sent up to 48 hours afterwards.
- 14.3. Parents will receive a report in the Summer term which shares their child's attainment against the Early Years Profile and Characteristics of Effective Learning. In the Autumn term, parents will receive a summary of their child's learning and behaviour.
- 14.4. Parents may approach ISI directly if they believe that The Beacon is not meeting the EYFS requirements. The number to call ISI with regard to a complaint is: 020 7600 0100

15. Trips

- 15.1. Pupils will attend one off-site school trip per year and the School Trips Policy outlines the procedures in place so pupils are safe during their trip.
- 15.2. Before each trip, the trip leader will have visited the location and completed a risk assessment. This is uploaded to Evolve (online trip management system) which, if satisfied, is approved by the Educational Visits Coordinator.

16. Parental involvement

- 16.1. We firmly believe that the EYFS cannot function without the enduring support of parents.
- 16.2. Parents are invited to Parents' evening in the Autumn and Spring term; however, the school has an open-door policy and parents are welcome to talk to teachers at the start and end of the school day.
- 16.3. Parents are asked to sign permission slips for any visits out of school, use of photographs of their child and using the internet at school.

16.4. Parents are asked to complete admission forms, a medical form and complete a brief synopsis about their child to help the school to understand their character and personality. In the first few weeks of term, parents are invited to a Welcome meeting to meet the staff and to learn about the routines in Early Years.

17. Transition

17.1. During the Summer term, the Early Years teachers will meet and allocate a pupil to their new class for the next academic year. This is based on friendships, academics and birth month.

17.2. During the year, Reception and Year 1 teachers will meet the pupils during playtimes in order to develop and build trustful relationships.

17.3. In the Summer term, the children visit their new classroom at least once without the support of their current practitioners or parents.

17.4. In the Summer term, staff will meet with the Year One team to discuss each child's development to support a smooth transition.

18. Monitoring and review

18.1. This policy is reviewed annually by the Board of Governors, Academic team, Head of Pre-Prep, Head of EY and the EY staff.

18.2. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff.

18.3. All members of staff directly involved with the EYFS are required to familiarise themselves with all processes and procedures outlined in this policy as part of their induction.