



## Ilminster Avenue Nursery School

### EYFS Policy

Date Agreed: June 2021

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*“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.”*

**-Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage Setting the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to five DFE 2017**

At Ilminster Avenue Nursery School we seek to provide:

- Quality and consistency so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind
- A secure foundation through learning and development opportunities which are planned around the needs and interests of each individual child and are assessed and reviewed regularly
- Partnership working between practitioners and with parents and/or carers
- Equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported

The EYFS is based upon four principles:

- A Unique Child
- Positive Relationships
- Enabling Environments
- Learning and Development

**A Unique Child**

At Ilminster Avenue Nursery School we recognise that every child is a competent learner who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. We recognise that children develop in individual ways, at varying rates.

Children’s attitudes and dispositions to learning are influenced by feedback from others; we use praise and encouragement, as well as Praise assemblies and rewards, to encourage children to develop a positive attitude to learning.

**Inclusion**

We value the diversity of individuals within the school and do not discriminate against children because of ‘differences’. All children at Ilminster Avenue Nursery School are treated fairly regardless of race, religion or abilities. All children and their families are valued within our school.

In our school we believe that all our children matter and that all God’s children are gifted and talented. We give our children every opportunity to achieve their best. We do this by taking account of our children’s range of life experiences when planning for their learning. In the EYFS we set realistic and challenging expectations that meet the needs of our children. We achieve this by planning to meet the needs of boys and girls, children with special educational needs, children who

are more able, children with disabilities, children from all social and cultural backgrounds, children of different ethnic groups and those from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

We meet the needs of all our children through:

- planning opportunities that build upon and extend children's knowledge, experience and interests, and develop their self-esteem and confidence;
- using a wide range of teaching strategies based on children's learning needs;
- providing a wide range of opportunities to motivate and support children and to help them to learn effectively;
- providing a safe and supportive learning environment in which the contribution of all children is valued;
- using resources which reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping;
- planning challenging activities for children whose ability and understanding are in advance of their language and communication skills;
- monitoring children's progress and taking action to provide support as necessary.

It is important to us that all children in the school are 'safe'. We aim to educate children on boundaries, rules and limits and to help them understand why they exist. We provide children with choices to help them develop this important life skill. Children should be allowed to take risks, but need to be taught how to recognise and avoid hazards.

We aim to protect the physical and psychological well-being of all children.

### **Welfare**

"Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them."

At Ilminster Avenue Nursery School we understand that we are legally required to comply with certain welfare requirements as stated in the Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage 2017.

We understand that we are required to:

- promote the welfare of children.
- promote good health, preventing the spread of infection and taking appropriate action when children are ill.
- manage behaviour effectively in a manner appropriate for the children's stage of development and individual needs.
- ensure all adults who look after the children or who have unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.
- Ensure that the premises, furniture and equipment is safe and suitable for purpose
- Ensure that every child receives enjoyable and challenging learning and development experiences tailored to meet their needs.

- Maintain records, policies and procedures required for safe efficient management of the setting and to meet the needs of the children. We endeavour to meet all these requirements.

### **Positive Relationships**

At Ilminster Avenue Nursery School we recognise that children learn to be strong independent from secure relationships.

We aim to develop caring, respectful, professional relationships with the children and their families.

### **Parents as Partners**

We recognise that parents are children's first and most enduring educators and we value the contribution they make. We recognise the role that parents have played, and their future role, in educating the children.

We do this through:

- talking to parents about their child before their child starts in our school;
- by visiting all children in their home setting prior to their starting nursery
- offering parents regular opportunities to talk about their child's progress and asking for them to contribute to our online learning journal: Tapestry
- encouraging parents to talk to the keyperson if there are any concerns. There are three opportunities throughout the year for the keyperson and the parents to discuss the child's learning. Parents will work with school on their child's 'next steps'
- arranging a range of activities throughout the year that encourage collaboration between child, school and parents: Share days, Class assemblies, Sports Day etc;
- providing space in the children's 'Learning Journey' booklets for parent to leave comments relating to the children's achievements.
- Settling in activities – which the parents share with the children at the start of the day.

All staff involved with the EYFS aim to develop good relationships with all children, interacting positively with them and taking time to listen to them. Every child in a class has a 'Key Person'.

### **Enabling Environments**

At Ilminster Avenue Nursery School we recognise that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending the children's development. This begins by observing the children and assessing their interests, development and learning, before planning challenging but achievable activities and experiences to extend the children's learning.

### **Observation, Assessment and Planning**

The main EYFS assessment method is through practitioners' observations of children in different teaching and learning contexts, including both adult focused activities and child initiated play. Observations take place on a daily basis (both formally and informally). Practitioners make time to carry out planned observations of individuals and groups of children regularly. They also make spontaneous observations in order to capture significant moments of children's learning. All

practitioners are involved in observing children. Practitioners use observations to support their developing knowledge of individual children. These observations are recorded in children's individual 'Learning Journey' booklets. They also contain information provided by parents and other settings.

It informs them of children's abilities, needs, interests, play schemas and learning styles. Observations are evaluated, children's learning priorities are identified and relevant learning opportunities are planned to support children to make the next steps and progress. The EYFS framework provides a long term plan to follow by ensuring that all Early Learning Goals are covered throughout the academic year. Medium term planning is created and takes into account the individual children's learning and developmental needs.

At Ilminster Avenue Nursery School, we use the Early Years Outcomes document to make judgements about each child's level of development. We then assess each child's level of development against the Early Learning Goals.

Within the final term of the EYFS, we provide a written summary to parents, reporting their progress against the Early Learning Goals and indicate whether children are meeting expected levels of development, or if they are exceeding expected levels, or not yet reaching expected levels ('emerging'). This is the EYFS Profile.

We give a reasonable opportunity for the parents to discuss these judgements with the keyperson. The parents of nursery children receive a general report which gives a comment about how the child is engaging with each provision area within nursery.

### The Learning Environment

There are seven areas of learning and development. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These three areas, the prime areas, are:

- communication and language;
- physical development; and
- personal, social and emotional development.

We also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- literacy;
- mathematics;
- understanding the world; and
- expressive arts and design.

None of these areas can be delivered in isolation from the others. They are equally important and depend on each other. All areas are delivered through a balance of adult led and child initiated

activities. In each area there are Early Learning Goals (ELG's) that define the expectations for most children to reach by the end of the EYFS.

The EYFS classrooms are organised to allow children to explore and learn securely and safely.

There are areas where the children can be active, be quiet and rest. The classrooms are set up in learning areas, where children are able to find and locate equipment and resources independently.

The EYFS classrooms have access to an outdoor area. This has a positive effect on the children's development. Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors. It offers the children to explore, use their senses and be physically active and exuberant.

We plan activities and resources for the children to access outdoors that help the children to develop in all 7 areas of learning.

Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity. We believe that play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults.

### **Learning and Development**

At Ilminster Avenue Nursery School we recognise that children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates.

We value all areas of learning and development equally and understand that they are inter connected.

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.

### **Teaching and Learning Style**

Effective teaching and learning in our school relies on:

- the partnership between keyperson and parents, so that our children feel secure at school and develop a sense of well-being and achievement;
- the understanding that the keyperson has of how children develop and learn, and how this affects their teaching;
- the range of approaches used that provide first-hand experiences, give clear explanations, make appropriate interventions and extend and develop play and talk or other means of communication;
- the carefully planned curriculum that helps children work towards the Early Learning Goals

throughout EYFS;

- the provision for children to take part in activities that build on and extend their interests and develop their intellectual, physical, social and emotional abilities;
- the encouragement for children to communicate and talk about their learning, and to develop independence and self-management;
- the support for learning with appropriate and accessible indoor and outdoor space, facilities and equipment;
- the identification of the progress and future learning needs of children through observations, which are shared with parents;

### **Playing and exploring**

Through play our children explore and develop learning experiences, which help them make sense of the world. They practise and build up ideas, and learn how to control themselves and understand the need for rules. They have the opportunity to think creatively alongside other children as well as on their own. They communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems. They express fears or re-live anxious experiences in controlled and safe situations.

### **Active Learning**

Active learning occurs when children are motivated and interested. Children need to have some independence and control over their learning. As children develop their confidence they learn to make decisions. It provides children with a sense of satisfaction as they take ownership of their learning.

### **Creativity and Critical Thinking**

Children should be given opportunity to be creative through all areas of learning, not just through the arts. Adults can support children's thinking and help them to make connections by showing genuine interest, offering encouragement, clarifying ideas and asking open questions. Children can access resources freely and are allowed to move them around the classroom to extend their learning.

### **Monitoring and Review**

It is the responsibility of the EYFS keyperson to follow the principles stated in this policy.

The ELT will carry out monitoring on the EYFS as part of the whole school monitoring schedule.

Date Adopted By Governing Body: June 2021