



Weetwood Primary School

Foundation Stage Policy

Last reviewed: March 2022
Next review: March 2025

Admissions into Weetwood Nursery

Every child is entitled to 15 free hours of Nursery Education a week. Weetwood Nursery also offer the 30 free hours of childcare to those who qualify. More information can be found on www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

We aim to be as flexible as possible regarding the sessions you require, please contact Callum Crawford to discuss your needs. Weetwood Nursery is open in term time during the school day hours, but WOOSC (Weetwood Out Of School Club) is available to all Nursery children from 7.30-9am and 3-6pm. WOOSC also provides an excellent school holiday play scheme.

Admission into Reception

Children are admitted into the Reception class at the start of the academic year in which they have their 5th birthday. All children are entitled to a full-time place in school; places are allocated by Leeds City Council admissions team, not individual schools.

Early Years curriculum

Nursery and Reception form the school's Foundation Stage where we follow a curriculum which supports children in working towards the 'Early Learning Goals', which are set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. There are seven areas of learning within the Foundation Stage curriculum.

Prime areas:

Communication and Language which develops listening, attention and understanding and speaking.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development which encourages self-regulation, managing self and building relationships.

Physical Development which develops gross motor and fine motor skills.

Specific areas:

Literacy which supports comprehension, word reading and writing.

Mathematics which focuses on number and numerical patterns.

Understanding of the World which looks at past and present, people, culture and communities and the natural world.

Expressive Arts and Design which focuses on creating with materials and being imaginative and expressive.

Planning

Both our Nursery and Reception classes have curriculum maps which map out possible topics that the class might follow throughout the year. However, it is important for us to follow the children's needs and interests, therefore topics may change quickly or sometimes may be carried out for longer periods depending on the needs of the children. It is, we believe, important to be flexible in our approach to planning and teaching as the children's interests and enjoyment will lead in different directions.

Provision

The Reception classroom and outside space is divided into 'areas of provision' in order to enable children to develop and consolidate their skills by accessing a range of resources which are continuously available for them to use, either independently or as part of a teacher-led activity. These 'areas of provision' provide children with access to sand, water, playdough, writing equipment, number games, construction toys, books, role play and technology.

We are fortunate in that Nursery and Reception share a large, well-resourced outside space. This enables us to ensure that children can develop their gross motor skills regularly and provides countless opportunities for large-scale creative work, scientific investigation, mathematical enquiry and co-operative play. We have a Forest area on site, which enables children to develop their learning outdoors in a natural environment, promoting risk taking, teamwork and developing their understanding of the world.

Tapestry

Tapestry is an online learning journey system where families are able to access their child's learning journey at home via an app. This secure network gives parents the opportunity to see what their child has been up to in the Foundation Stage through observations containing pictures and videos. Likewise, parents and carers can upload observations from home that can then be shared with their class at school. This fantastic resource promotes the home school links that are embedded here at Weetwood. We actively encourage families to use Tapestry.

Assessment

Nursery and Reception both complete baselines for their children when they start either class. This supports the practitioners to plan accordingly for the children's needs.

Daily practice involves observing the children during child initiated and adult led activities. Significant observations are recorded on Tapestry for parents/carers to see.

An end of year report is given to all parents/carers on the progress of their child.

In the final term of Reception, each child will be assessed against the Early Learning Goals. Practitioners will indicate if a child is meeting the expected level of development or if they are not yet meeting it (emerging). This is referred to as their EYFS profile.

Home/School Links

At Weetwood we are keen to establish and maintain strong links between home and school. As well as Tapestry, we use a system called Class Dojo. Class Dojo is an online rewards system which also provides a messaging service directly to the class teachers. News is also shared on either the whole school or individual class pages to showcase what is happening in school on a weekly basis.

We often invite families into school for 'Stay and play' sessions in Nursery/Reception and 'share our learning' mornings where families can see what is going on in school from Nursery to Year 6.

Transitions

All children starting in our Nursery have home visits prior to their child starting nursery. This gives children the security of meeting with their teacher in a safe, familiar environment.

Children starting Reception have settling in sessions with their new class teacher and teaching assistants in the summer term. Children coming from different settings to our Reception are visited, where possible, by the reception class teacher. In the summer term all our Reception children visit the Year 1 teacher for settling in sessions.

Safeguarding and welfare procedures

Each child is assigned a key worker. Their role is to help ensure that every child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs and to help the child become familiar with the setting, offer a settled relationship for the child and build a relationship with their parents.

At Weetwood we actively promote good health, both physical and mental, including oral health through the curriculum and through our daily practice. We support families to encourage their child to become independent in meeting their own care needs, e.g., brushing teeth, using the toilet, washing and drying their hands thoroughly. We also educate the children to make healthy choices about food, drink, and activities.

The rest of our safeguarding and welfare procedures are outlined in our safeguarding policy.