

Early Years Policy

Under the EYFS, early years providers must have written policies and procedures which clearly describe how the setting takes 'necessary steps to keep children safe and well. Providers must ensure that staff understand and are familiar with these, and that they are accessible and self-explanatory to parents.

TreeHouse School offers education to pupils aged 4 and above so this Early Years Policy is applicable for the first year of education until the pupil reaches the end of their reception year. Currently TreeHouse School has a combined Reception, Year 1 and year 2 class. No separate Early Years group is required.

The Ambitious Approach

The focus of the Ambitious Approach is to provide an education that prepares children and young people for a happy and fulfilling life and, whilst doing so, affords them the dignity, respect, and compassion that they deserve. The Ambitious Approach is a school-wide approach that puts all pupils at the centre of their learning.

It ensures that all pupils are:

- Treated with dignity and compassion;
- Valued;
- Supported to have the best quality of life possible;
- Empowered to make choices and decide on how they want to live their life.

Safeguarding- Keeping Children Safe and Well

Safeguarding of all pupils is paramount at TreeHouse School and all staff complete statutory training to make sure that they are compliant with the legal requirements. The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Procedures (December 2023) is understood by all members of staff and relates to all pupils, including Early Years pupils.

The policy covers the following themes:

- Roles and responsibilities;
- Confidentiality;
- Recognising abuse and taking action;
- Notifying parents;
- Mobile phones and cameras;
- Training;
- Monitoring arrangements;
- Safer recruitment.

This policy is accessible on the school's website and is self-explanatory to parents. The school's Designated Safeguarding Lead is Sean Egan.

Transition arrangements

Admission for Early Years pupils is through the normal TreeHouse School admissions process. The child is visited at home or in their current early years setting by a member of the assessment team so they can assess which curriculum pathway would be most beneficial to meet the pupil's specific special educational needs. This is also an initial

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opportunity to gather a full picture of the child's home life to ascertain if there are any safeguarding concerns that the school needs to consider.

At TreeHouse School, Reception age children are offered a tailor-made transition plan to ensure that they know their class teacher and key worker and have had the opportunity to look around the school before they start their full-time placement. Staff use this opportunity to devise a one-page profile/communication and regulation passport in collaboration with parents or carers.

Curriculum Pathways

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the statutory framework which sets standards that all early years' providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well; and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children are ready for school; and stimulates the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the foundation for good future progress through school and life. TreeHouse School have fully adopted this statutory framework and all TreeHouse early years pupils access their learning at this level.

The EYFS is based upon four principles:

- A unique child;
- Positive relationships;
- Enabling environments;
- Learning and development.

Each child will access their learning through either the pre-formal or semi-formal pathway (see whole school curriculum documents for more detail). The pre-formal pathway is most suitable for pupils who have sensory needs and are at a lower level of cognitive development. The semi-formal curriculum is for pupils who are able to differentiate between subjects.

Both pathways are based upon the Development Matters Framework, linked to the EYFS. All Early years' children follow the programmes of study in the seven areas of the EYFS, within our curriculum subjects notably:

- English (Communication and language and Literacy)
- PE/Physical development.
- PSHE/Personal, social, and emotional development.
- Mathematics.
- Understanding of the world.
- Expressive arts and design.

All policies written for TreeHouse School apply for all age-groups including EYFS who attend the school.

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