

## **Bishop Monkton Church of England School**

### **Early Years Policy**

Our aim is to provide a secure, safe, happy and exciting environment in which the children can develop socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually. During the Early Years we are laying the foundations for future learning, encouraging the children to become independent and develop a positive approach to school life.

#### **Transition into Reception**

To ensure a smooth transition into Reception we do the following:

- The class teacher and teaching assistant visit the children at their pre-school settings or nursery during the summer term.
- Parents are invited to attend a 'Starting school induction evening' in which they meet the class teacher and teaching assistant.
- Parents are given the 'My starting school booklet' to be completed with their child in order to provide background information for the class teacher.
- Parents are given an admission form to complete which collates all the information about their child.
- Children attend an afternoon session and a morning session with lunch to become familiar with the class teacher, peers and their classroom environment and also to meet their Year 6 'buddies'.

#### **Classroom organisation**

- The classroom is organised into provision areas both indoors and outdoors, which the children can access independently. The challenges and focus activities within these areas change on a regular basis and are influenced heavily by the child initiated learning which has been observed.
- The children work in small focus groups for Numeracy and Literacy to complete directed activities and the objectives are then reinforced through activities set up in the provision areas. Children consistently receive praise and positive feedback for their achievements.

#### **Planning the curriculum**

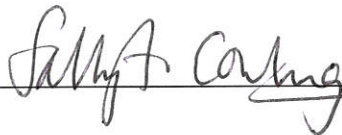
- Within the foundation stage we plan using the Development Matters Framework and the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. The children are assessed in the following seven areas of learning – Communication and Language, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world, Expressive Arts and Design, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development.
- Learning opportunities are planned to be both stimulating and challenging and are heavily influenced by the children's interests and learning journeys which they choose to embark upon.
- Each child has an electronic learning journey, which contains observations, photographic evidence and annotated work as evidence towards the early learning goals which they achieve. Parents can access these at home and also make their own contributions.

- A baseline assessment is made of a child's ability during their first half term in school to help us understand their individual learning needs. These assessments are moderated against other schools to ensure a fair standard of assessment is maintained.
- At the end of the reception year, children are assessed against the Early Learning Goals and are given a level of emerging, expected or exceeding.

### Links with home

- A 'Welcome meeting' is held in the class during the first half of the school year.
- At the end of the day the teacher says goodbye to the children and has a cross over period with the parents/carers to have informal discussions and answer any questions.
- Parent's evenings are held twice a year and a written report is given at the end of the school year showing the child's level of development for the end of the foundation stage.
- Learning journey books are available for parents to view online throughout the year
- Children are asked to complete a News Diary at home sharing their home news to prompt discussion in class.

Signed Headteacher



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Signed Chair of Governors



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Date

June 2015

Review date

June 2018