



COBHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Caring, Proud, Successful!

Early Years Assessment Policy

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Statement of intent

Every child deserves the best possible start in life. At Cobham Primary School we greatly value the importance of the early years foundation stage (EYFS) in providing a secure foundation for future learning and development, and understand our responsibilities in ensuring that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

This policy has been developed in conjunction with the relevant DfE guidance and legislation and seeks 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 child and are assessed and reviewed regularly.
- **Partnership working** between practitioners and parents.
- **Equality of opportunity** and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported.

1. Legal framework

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

- Childcare Act 2016
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- Education Act 2011
- DfE (2021) 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'
- STA (2020) 'Early years foundation stage assessment and reporting arrangements (ARA)'
- Equality Act 2010
- General Data Protection Regulation 2018

This policy is intended to be used in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Early Years Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Data Protection Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with the advice and guidance outlined within the Governance Handbook to support and challenge the SLT.
- Ensuring the school has clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.
- Ensuring that there are appropriate policies, procedures, and practices in place to deliver the 'statutory framework for the early years foundation stage' in line with statutory requirements.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with the '[Headteachers' standards](#)' and the expectations of the school community.
- Upholding ambitious educational standards which prepare children from all backgrounds for their next phase of education and life.
- Ensuring teaching is underpinned by high levels of subject expertise and approaches which respect the distinct nature of subject disciplines or specialist domains.
- Ensuring valid, reliable and proportionate approaches are used when assessing children's knowledge and understanding of the curriculum and ensure effective use is made of formative assessment.

- Understanding and acting within the statutory assessment frameworks which set out the duties, responsibilities and reporting arrangements to be followed.
- Ensuring all relevant staff members read and implement this policy.
- Ensuring that staff have received the appropriate training to deliver and report EYFS assessments.
- Ensuring parents are informed about their child's progress, development and targets, and are aware of relevant early years policies, practices and procedures.

The EYFS practitioner will be responsible for:

- Acting in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Understanding and acting within the statutory frameworks which set out their professional duties and responsibilities.
- Ensuring they have a thorough working knowledge of the DfE's '[Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage](#)' and the requirements therein.
- Using formative and summative assessments to assess, monitor and report on children's progress, plan next steps and shape learning opportunities.
- Identifying any areas of concern relating to children and their learning, development and emotional needs.

All teaching staff are responsible for:

- Having due regard for this policy and the guidance outlined in the DfE's '[Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage](#)' when making assessments.

3. Learning and development

Educational provision and practice within the early years will be centred around the requirements of the DfE's '[Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage](#)'.

The educational programmes will be based on an observation of children's needs, interests and stages of development. Activities in school will be planned to reflect these interests and individual circumstances in order to provide each child with a challenging and enjoyable experience.

In the planning and delivery of educational programmes, staff will have due regard to the school's Early Years Policy, Early Years Assessment Policy and the relevant DfE guidance.

4. Assessment

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.

The school will use three main forms of assessment:

- Ongoing formative assessment – to inform teaching on a day-to-day basis
- In-setting summative assessment – to understand a child's performance at the end of a period of teaching
- National statutory summative assessment – to understand a child's performance in relation to national expectations and comparisons

Ongoing formative assessments will be used to assess the day-to-day learning and development of children in the EYFS. EYFS Practitioners will interact and observe children to understand their achievements, interests and learning needs, and will use this information to shape the educational experiences for each child.

Parents will be kept up-to-date with their child's progress and development, and EYFS practitioners will address any learning and development needs in partnership with parents.

In line with statutory requirements, the school will undertake a summative assessment of each child's development at certain stages:

- Reception Baseline Assessment – a short assessment which is taken within the first six weeks of a child starting Reception.
- The EYFS Profile – a comprehensive assessment completed at the end of the EYFS to provide a well-rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities, attainment against the early learning goals (ELGs), and their readiness for Year 1.

Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA)

Within the first six weeks of children starting school, staff will conduct the RBA.

The RBA:

- Is an activity-based, age-appropriate assessment of children's ability in early mathematics, literacy, communication and language.
- Is expected to take approximately 20 minutes per child.
- Can be paused and completed in more than one sitting.
- Will be administered by a Reception teacher, Reception TA or suitably qualified practitioner, e.g. the SENCO.
- Will be used to create a baseline for school-level progress measures and will measure the progress children make from Reception until the end of Year 6.

When carrying out assessment and reporting functions, the school will administer the RBA in compliance with the provisions outlined within both the ['Reception baseline assessment and reporting arrangements \(ARA\)'](#) document, and [Annex B](#) of the 'Early years foundation stage framework.'

After completion of the RBA, EYFS practitioners will receive a series of short, narrative statements that tell them how pupils performed in the assessment – the school will use these to inform their teaching approaches.

The school will ensure that confidentiality of assessment materials is maintained and follow guidance on how to keep materials secure when they are received. The RBS assessment materials will not be used for any other purpose.

For children with visual and hearing impairments the school will provide modified and adapted assessment materials. Where it is felt that the RBA is inaccessible to a child, the school will consider disapplying individual children who, despite the using access arrangements, are unable to participate. Parents will be involved in these discussions.

The headteacher will sign a 'Headteacher Declaration Form (HDF)' once each academic year and ensure that the RBA is being delivered in line with statutory requirements and the HDF.

Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP)

To summarise and describe children's learning and development at the end of the EYFS the school must complete an EYFSP for each child, unless, in line with DfE guidance, an exemption in line with [section 5](#) of this policy applies.

This assessment will take place in the Summer term (no later than 30 June of that term) of the academic year when a child reaches 5 years old.

When carrying out assessment and reporting functions, the school will complete the EYFSP in compliance with the provisions outlined within the 'EYFS assessment and reporting arrangements (ARA)' document, and the 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage.'

The school will make staff aware of the need to ensure that the assessments provide a reliable, valid and accurate judgement of each child's progress at the end of the EYFS.

The school will assess each child against the ELGs and provide a commentary describing each child's skills and abilities against the three characteristics of effective learning:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

Throughout the year EYFS practitioners will collect and collate materials, observational records and information within a child's Learning Journey. Profile judgements will be made on the basis of the cumulative evidence recorded over the course of the year. Evidence will include:

- Knowledge of the child.
- Photographs.
- Written and/or drawn evidence.
- Planned and un-planned observations of day-to-day interactions.
- Video, tape, audio or electronic recordings.
- The child's view of his or her own learning.
- Information from parents or other relevant adults.

EYFS Practitioners will use this evidence to judge whether a child's learning is:

- Not yet reaching expected levels (emerging).
- Meeting expected levels (expected).

Accurate assessment requires a two-way flow of information between settings and home, and the school will ensure that processes are in place to consult parents about their child's development and achievements at home.

Data collection and submission

The school will liaise with the LA to agree on a system to collect and submit profile data.

In accordance with the Childcare (Provision of Information About Young Children) (England) Regulations 2009, the school will provide the EYFS profile data to the LA upon request, unless the Secretary of State has granted an exemption from the EYFS learning and development requirements.

The school recognises its responsibility for submitting accurate, reliable and high quality EYFS profile data to the LA. To achieve this, the school will ensure that:

- Staff understand their setting's systems for recording children's profile outcomes and submitting data to their LA.
- EYFS Practitioners clearly record EYFS profile information.
- Staff responsible for data collection and submission understand the nature of EYFS profile data.
- Data is transcribed from their setting's records to electronic records accurately.
- Entered data is checked against what was originally provided by the practitioner.
- Information that accompanies EYFS profile data is accurate, for example postcode and unique pupil number.
- Headteachers check and sign off data before it is submitted to their LA.

5. Exemptions

The school will participate in the assessment arrangements within the EYFS ARA, unless:

- The Secretary of State has granted an exemption from the profile for the provision.
- The child is continuing in EYFS provision beyond the year in which they turn five.
- The child has attended the provision for an insufficient amount of time for an adequate judgement to be made before the profile submission deadline – professional judgements will be used to determine whether an accurate assessment can be made.

Where a child is exempt or an assessment is not appropriate, this will be recorded as 'A' (no assessment) for each ELG in the child's profile return.

Where a child remains in EYFS provision beyond the end of the academic year in which they turn five, the assessment will continue throughout the child's time at the school; however, the EYFS profile will only be completed once, at the end of the year before the child moves to KS1.

6. EYFSP Moderation

Moderation involves both internal moderation activities and professional dialogue between external moderators and practitioners. The school will ensure that adequate time and resources are available for staff to conduct internal moderation of assessments.

To ensure that EYFS practitioners are fully aware of the principles and processes of EYFS profile assessment and the accuracy of judgements, the school will ensure that staff are able to attend appropriate LA training and CPD opportunities.

During internal moderation, EYFS practitioners will meet with the HT or AH to analyse EYFSPs and collectively discuss and agree assessment judgements. This will include EYFS practitioners and Year 1 teaching staff so that assessment outcomes and commentary can be used to inform future teaching.

If the school is scheduled to have an LA moderation visit, the school will ensure that:

- EYFS profile judgements are available at external moderation.
- EYFS profile judgements have been subjected to internal moderation prior to an LA external moderation visit.
- Practitioners are able to discuss their judgements with moderators.
- Proportionate evidence drawn from learning activities is available to demonstrate children's development across the ELGs and not created for moderation.
- The LA external moderators have a quiet area to conduct the external moderation visit.
- EYFS practitioners are given the appropriate time to engage in professional discussion with moderators for a professional discussion on the judgements.
- Meet requests from the LA external moderators for samples of children's day-to-day classwork or any other evidence reasonably required if that evidence is available.
- The headteacher, or representative is available to meet with the LA external moderator to receive formal feedback and to sign the written record of the visit.
- Any changes to practitioner judgements as a result of an external moderation visit are accurately reflected in their submitted data.

All records will be kept in accordance with our Data Protection Procedures.

7. How the results are used

The main purpose of the EYFS profile is to provide a reliable, valid and accurate assessment of individual children at the end of the EYFS. The school will use the EYFS profile data to:

- Inform parents about their child's development against the ELGs and the characteristics of their learning.
- Support a smooth transition to KS1 by informing the professional dialogue between EYFS and KS1 teachers.
- Help Year 1 teachers plan an effective, responsive and appropriate curriculum that will meet the needs of all children.
- Monitor and evaluate school performance by comparing our results against local and national results.
- Analyse the attainment and achievement of individuals and groups of children, for example boys and girls and summer born children.

The DfE uses the EYFS profiles to provide an accurate national data set relating to levels of child development at the end of the EYFS.

8. Reporting to parents

Parents will be encouraged to engage with their child's learning and development and will be involved in the assessment process.

The school operates an open-door policy, so that parents can speak to their child's teacher about any concerns. To book meetings with teachers, whether in-person or virtually e.g. by telephone, parents should speak to the school office.

The school will share the EYFS profile results with parents and ensure they have an opportunity to discuss the report with the teacher who completed it. Meetings with parents will be offered within the term in which the profile has been completed.

Written summaries of children's attainment will include whether the child's attainment level is judged to be emerging or expected.

At the end of Reception, parents will be given a report which will:

- Be child specific
- Be concise and informative.
- Help to identify appropriate next steps.
- State their child's attainment against the ELGs.
- Summarise attainment in all areas of learning.
- Comment on general progress including the characteristics of effective learning.
- Explain arrangements for discussing the profile.

If requested by parents in writing, the school will provide a copy of their child's profile, free of charge within two school days.

Parents will be provided the opportunity to attend an annual parents' evening, in which they will be able to speak to their child's teachers. In most years there are three opportunities for parents to attend Parent Consultations.

9. Transition

EYFS Practitioners and Year 1 teachers will work together to ensure that a child's transition between the EYFS and Year 1 is seamless.

Year 1 teachers will be involved in EYFS profile moderation so that they understand the judgements made by EYFS practitioners and have a fully rounded picture of the attainment of each child in order to plan the Year 1 curriculum.

The school will ensure that adequate time is made available for EYFS practitioners and Year 1 teachers to discuss and expand on the information presented in the EYFS profile, in particular, the narratives related to the characteristics of effective learning.

EYFS Practitioners will provide additional information alongside the profile judgements to ensure that conversations with KS1 staff are meaningful, and to help the child make a successful transition.

The pedagogical approaches of EYFS practitioners will make sure that children's experiences in the final year of the EYFS are valuable in themselves, and prepare the ground for Year 1.

When children transition to Reception, parents will be kept fully informed to ensure they understand the school's procedures and to voice any concerns.

Children will be offered visits in the summer term to their Reception class.

Visits to the home by EYFS practitioners are organised before the child begins school in order to help the child feel secure and for parents to ask any additional questions.

A whole parent workshop is offered in the summer term in order to prepare parents for what the EYFS curriculum will be offering for their child.

Staff will make links to the main feeder settings.

10. Inclusion

All children are valued as individuals irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, background, ability or gender.

The EYFS curriculum is planned in order to meet the needs of the individual child and support them at their own pace.

The Equal Opportunities Policy ensures that the needs of all children are met, regardless of any protected characteristics they have.

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy ensures all children receive the support they need and are given the best learning experience possible. SEND in the EYFS setting will be monitored and managed by the school's SENCO.

EYFS Practitioners will reflect on their observations and ensure that the provision enables all children to demonstrate attainment in ways that are motivating to them, regardless of their stage of development or interests, needs and inclinations.

The school is aware that, for some children (as outlined below) it may be challenging for practitioners to observe and assess:

- Those whose development is judged to be at the 'emerging' level.
- Children identified with SEND.
- Children for whom English is not their home language and are learning English as an additional language (EAL).

In these cases, early years practitioners will:

- Use their professional knowledge of each child to provide an understanding of how some children might demonstrate attainment.
- Ensure that learning and assessment activities are able to capture children's attainment.
- Ensure that the requirements of all children with SEND are met, e.g. through reasonable adjustments.
- Use the adaptations children normally use to carry out their activities, including mobility aids, communication aids, magnification and adapted ICT and equipment.

- Develop additional relationships with other professionals when working with children with SEND.
- Consult and liaise with parents to get a clear picture of the child's learning and development at home.
- Ensure that provision has been made for those children with EAL to use their first language in play and learning and make arrangements for the assessments of ELGs (excluding communication and language and literacy which must be assessed in relation to the child's competency in English) to be made in the context of any language – including their home language and English.
- For EAL children, find out about a child's prior language experience and any education they have received elsewhere.

11. Transferring records to a child's new school or provider

If a child moves to a new provider during the academic year, we will send our assessment of their development against the ELGs to the new provider.

If a child transfers before the Summer half-term holiday, the new provider will be responsible for reporting the child's EYFS profile data to the LA. If the child transfers during the second half of the Summer term, this school will report the data.

If half term dates differ to those of the new provider, it is the provider where the child attends, or will attend, for the longest period of time that submits the data.

The school will send the transferring child's education record and CTF to the new provider within 15 school days of the child ceasing to be registered at our school unless the new provider is not known.

If the new provider is not known, the school will send the data within 15 school days if they ask to be provided with a copy.

If the new provider has the capability, the school will send the CTF via School to School (S2S) or over a secure network. If this is not possible, the LA will provide the file, where permitted by local arrangements.

The school will have due regard to the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR at all times.

12. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the governing board and the headteacher.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff by the headteacher.

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