



**Holy Family's  
Parents' Guide  
to the  
Early Years Foundation Stage  
Framework**

## **What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?**

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is how the Government and early years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5.

In Our School the Foundation Stage begins when your child enters Nursery until they leave at the end of Reception.

## **What is the EYFS Framework – why do we have one?**

The EYFS Framework is guidance for professionals working in the Early Years to help your child, and was developed with a number of early years experts and parents.

In 2012 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter most. This new framework also has a greater emphasis on your role in helping your child develop.

## **What does it mean for me as a parent?**

- It is the stage that they are in until the end of Reception year at school.
- Children do best when parents and professionals work together.
- It is important to remember that you know more about your own child than anyone else. Therefore we encourage parents to share information about their child. Also we try to keep you informed of your child's development in a variety of ways.
- Understanding what your child is doing when they are with others will help you to notice how well they are developing and learning.
- The part you play in their learning and the choices you make will make a difference to their future.

## **How my child will be learning?**

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development**.

Initially, children should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first. These are:

- **Communication and language;**
- **Physical development and**
- **Personal, social and emotional development.**

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas**. These are:

- **Literacy;**
- **Mathematics;**
- **Understanding the world and**
- **Expressive arts and design.**

We use these 7 areas to plan your child's learning and activities. All the adults teaching and supporting your child in the Foundation Stage will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs and it is designed to be flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in our Foundation Stage learn by playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

## **What are the EYFS principles?**

### **Theme: A Unique Child**

Principle: Every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

### **Theme: Positive Relationships**

Principle: Children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.

### **Theme: Enabling Environments**

Principle: The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

### **Theme Learning and Development**

Principle: Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and interconnected.

## **How can I help with my child's learning?**

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development.

Parents and carers are their children's first teachers. When they are with you learning can happen at any time and anywhere, below are just a few examples of what you could do:

- Being generous with praise and cuddles
- Reading things together
- Playing games, singing nursery rhymes
- Talking about what you can see in the park or on the street
- Counting the stairs as you go up or down
- Talk about numbers, colours, words and letters you see when you are out and about
- Allow your child to cut and stick from comics and magazines
- Cook / bake together
- Talk about the shapes you see at the supermarket

## **How can I find out how my child is getting on?**

We feel that it is very important that we work together to care for your child. We hope you feel comfortable about exchanging information and discussing things that will benefit your child. These conversations can be with any member of the Foundation Stage team.

### **Key person**

When your child starts in the Foundation Stage they will be given a Key Worker. This is the person who:

- Is your main point of contact within the setting
- Helps your child to become settled, happy and safe
- Is responsible for your child's care, development and learning
- Takes a careful note of your child's progress, sharing this with you and giving you ideas as to how to help your child at home

### **When your child is 5**

At the end of the Foundation Stage – in the summer term of the reception year in school – teachers complete an assessment which is known as the **EYFS Profile**. This assessment is carried out by the reception teacher and is based on what they, and other staff caring for your child, have observed over a period of time.

Another important part of the EYFS Profile is your knowledge about your child's learning and development, so do let your child's class teacher know about what your child does with you: such as how confident your child is in writing their name, reading and talking about a favourite book, speaking to people your child is not so familiar with or their understanding of numbers.

All of the information collected is used to judge how your child is doing in the 7 areas of learning and development. Finding out at this stage how your child is doing will mean that the teacher your child has in their next school year – Year 1 – will know what your child really enjoys doing and does well, as well as helping them decide if your child needs a bit of extra support, what that support should be and if they are already getting it.

The school will give you a report of your child's progress, including information from his or her EYFS Profile.

## Where can I go for further information?

You can find the **Early Years Foundation Stage** which includes the early learning goals at [www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk). The Foundation Years website also includes a range of resources and contacts.