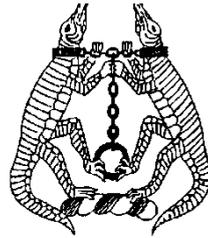


SIR ROBERT GEFERY'S SCHOOL

A School for Enthusiasts

*Where we 'live life in its fullness' (John 10.10)
Knowing that God is our strength and with
His help we will be the best we can*



Early Years Policy

Policy Reviewed by: Kimberley Hawkings, EYFS Leader
and Headteacher

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Contents:

Statement of intent

1. [Legal framework](#)
2. [Roles and responsibilities](#)
3. [Aims](#)
4. [Learning and development](#)
5. [Assessment](#)
6. [Inclusion](#)
7. [The learning environment and outdoor spaces](#)
8. [Safeguarding and welfare](#)
9. [Mobile phones and devices](#)
10. [ICT lessons](#)
11. [Health and safety](#)
12. [Staff taking medication or other substances](#)
13. [Staffing](#)
14. [Information and records](#)
15. [Parental involvement](#)
16. [Transition periods](#)
17. [Monitoring and review](#)

Statement of intent

At Sir Robert Geffery's School, we greatly value the importance of the early years foundation stage (EYFS) in providing a secure foundation for future learning and development.

This policy has been developed in conjunction with the relevant DfE guidance and legislation to ensure that each child has a happy and positive start to their school life in which they can build a foundation for a love of learning.

We ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. We promote teaching and learning to ensure children's readiness for the next stage of their education and give children a broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

We seek 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 2006
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- DfE (2021) 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'
- DfE (2021) 'Development Matters'
- DfE (2021) 'Keeping children safe in education 2021'
- DfE (2018) 'Working Together to Safeguard Children'
- DfE (2015) 'The Prevent duty'
- Early Education (2021) 'Birth to 5 Matters'
- UK Council for Internet Safety (2020) 'Education for a Connected World'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Early Years Assessment Policy
- Early Years Teaching and Learning Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Photography Policy
- Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy
- Complaints Procedures Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy: Pupils
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Administering Medication Policy
- Whole-School Food Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Fire Safety Policy
- Staff Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- All school National Curriculum subject policies

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Ensuring there is a policy in place to safeguard children that includes an explanation of the action to be taken when there are safeguarding concerns about a child, the use of mobile phones and cameras, and staff safeguarding training requirements. These issues are addressed in part in this policy and in further detail in the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Photography Policy.

- Ensuring there is a policy in place in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff (including supply staff) or a volunteer. These issues are addressed in the school's Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy.
- Monitoring the implementation of this policy.
- Ensuring that this policy does not discriminate on any grounds.
- Handling complaints regarding this policy, as outlined in the school's Complaints Procedures Policy.

The EYFS lead, in conjunction with the Headteacher, has responsibility for the day-to-day implementation and management of this policy.

Staff, including teachers, support staff, supply staff and volunteers, are responsible for:

- Familiarising themselves with, and following, this policy.
- Remaining alert to any issues of concern in children.

3. Aims

Through the implementation of this policy, we aim to:

- Give each child a happy and positive start to their school life in which they can establish a solid foundation for a love of learning.
- Give children access to a broad and balanced curriculum that gives them the broad range of knowledge and skills needed for good progress through school and life
- Enable each child to develop socially, physically, intellectually and emotionally.
- Encourage children to develop independence within a secure and friendly atmosphere.
- Support children in building relationships through the development of social skills such as cooperation and sharing.
- Work alongside parents to meet each child's individual needs to ensure they reach their full potential.

Four guiding principles shape our practice:

- Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**.
- Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments with teaching and support from adults**, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between the school and parents.
- **Learning and development** is important. Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

To put these principles into practice, the school:

- Provides a balanced curriculum which takes children's different stages of development into account.
- Promotes equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

- Works in partnership with parents.
- Plans challenging learning experiences, based on individual needs, which are informed by observation and assessment.
- Provides a safe and secure learning environment.

4. Learning and Development

In partnership with parents, the school promotes the learning and development of pupils to ensure they are ready for the next stage of education.

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

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape education programmes in EYFS settings. These are split into two important and interconnected sections – prime and specific:

The 'prime' areas of learning and development are:

- Communication and language
 - Listening, attention and understanding
 - Speaking
- Physical development
 - Gross motor skills
 - Fine motor skills
- Personal, social and emotional development
 - Self-regulation
 - Managing self
 - Building relationships

The 'specific' areas of learning and development are:

- Literacy
 - Comprehension
 - Word reading
 - Writing
- Mathematics
 - Numbers
 - Numerical patterns
- Understanding the world
 - Past and present
 - People, culture and communities
 - The natural world
- Expressive arts and design
 - Creating with materials
 - Being imaginative and expressive

In organising and implementing educational programmes, the school will ensure that a broad range of activities and experiences are planned, having regard to three characteristics of effective teaching and learning in the EYFS:

- Playing and exploring – children investigate and experience things.
- Active learning – children concentrate, keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy their achievements.
- Creating and thinking critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

Children learn best by being actively involved in activities, through first hand experiences and their senses. We therefore provide a range of activities which are interesting, enjoyable, challenging and fun! Through these, we encourage our children to explore, experiment, question, investigate, discover, create, practise and consolidate their developing understanding, knowledge and skills.

If a child is excited and motivated by learning, especially in the early days, then we are already helping that child to become a lifelong learner.

5. 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.

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

Ongoing formative assessments are used to assess the day-to-day learning and development of children in the EYFS. Practitioners interact and observe children to understand their interests and learning needs, and will use this information to inform practice and provision for each child.

The EYFS setting will undertake a summative assessment of the level of each child's development at certain stages. These are:

- Reception Baseline Assessment – a short assessment which is taken within the first six weeks of a child starting reception year.
- 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.

The school reports EYFS Profile results to the LA when these are requested. The LA is under a duty to return this data to the relevant government department.

Reasonable adjustments will be made to the assessment process for children with SEND as appropriate.

The EYFS lead will discuss any cause for concern in a child's progress with the child's parents, especially where this concern relates to the prime areas of learning. A strategy of support will be agreed upon and consideration will be taken as to whether the child may have SEND which requires additional support.

6. Inclusion

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

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

7. The learning environment and outdoor spaces

The classroom is organised in such a way that children can explore and learn in a safe and interactive environment. It is purpose built for young children with appropriate furniture and furnishings and is light, bright and attractive.

There is a range of resources to provide for the seven areas of learning in the Foundation Stage both indoors and by using our high quality outdoor facilities.

Children have access to an enclosed outdoor play area, and daily outdoor activities are planned, unless circumstances, such as the weather, would make outdoor activity inappropriate and unsafe. Outdoor learning is an integral part of the play and learning provision for EYFS. Children will be allowed daily access to the outdoor environment for both continuous provision and focused activities. Planning recognises that the outdoor classroom is an extension of the indoor area but also an area to provide different opportunities on a larger scale.

The outdoor learning environment is set up daily as a stimulating and inviting space, which supports learning across all areas of learning both Prime and Specific. Included are sand, water, digging, number, music, writing, art, large physical and climbing and balancing, den building and a staging area.

Toilet facilities available to the EYFS are located within the main classroom. Nappy changing facilities are also available in the main school building.

8. Safeguarding and welfare

All necessary steps are taken to keep the children in our care safe and well. Any safeguarding or welfare issues will be dealt with in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, and all members of staff in the EYFS are required to read this policy as part of their induction training.

The DSL is Mrs Julie Curtis.

The deputy DSL is Mrs Rebecca Cunningham

The DSL is responsible for safeguarding children and liaising with local children's services as appropriate. The deputy DSL will undertake the duties of the DSL in their absence, but overall responsibility for safeguarding will remain with the DSL. The DSL and deputy DSL will undertake child protection training as required.

Staff will receive safeguarding training that enables them to understand the safeguarding policy and procedures, have up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding issues, and recognise signs of potential abuse and neglect.

9. Mobile phones and devices

For the purposes of this policy, the term 'mobile phone' refers to any electronic device that can be used to take images or record videos, including tablets.

Photography policies and procedures are addressed in full in our Photography Policy.

Use of personal mobile phones by staff members

Staff members must not use personal mobile phones or cameras when children are present. Staff may use mobile phones on school premises outside of working hours when no children are present. Staff may use mobile phones in the staffroom during breaks and non-contact time. Mobile phones should be safely stored and in silent mode whilst children are present.

Staff may take mobile phones on trips, but they must only be used in emergencies and should not be used when children are present. Mobile phones must not be used to take images or videos at any time during trips.

Staff who do not adhere to this policy will face disciplinary action. Staff must report any concerns about another staff member's use of mobile phones to the DSL, following the procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and the Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy.

Staff may use their professional judgement in emergency situations.

Use of mobile phones by parents, visitors and contractors

Parents, visitors and contractors are not permitted to take photographs or record videos without prior permission. Parents may take photographs and videos only containing their own child during school events. Parents may take group photographs at school events but only with the informed consent of the parents of the children involved.

The school strongly advises against the publication of any photographs or videos taken at the school or school events on social media. Staff must report all concerns about parents, visitors and contractors to the DSL, following the procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Use of the school's mobile phones and cameras

Staff are provided with a school device to ensure that only school devices are used to take photographs and videos. School devices must have passcode protection.

School devices must only be used for work related matters, for example recording and documenting a child's learning. School devices must only be used to take photographs in the presence of another staff member and only with the consent of the child's parent.

Staff must not take photographs of bruising or injuries for child protection reasons. Instead, recording concerns forms and body maps are used to record observations relating to child protection concerns via CPOMS.

School devices must not be taken off school premises without prior written permission from the headteacher. Where staff members have concerns over material on a school device, they must report all concerns to the DSL, following the procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

10. ICT lessons

ICT lessons will be used to give children the opportunity to use technology, equip them for the demands of the developing digital world, and prepare them for the next step in their education. The school aims to:

- Help children work more independently.
- Enable children to develop and enhance their work.
- Encourage children to collaborate on projects.
- Give children the skills and tools to access a wide range of information, ideas and cultures.
- Help children develop skills that can be used in other areas of the curriculum.
- Help children develop good control and coordination through using ICT equipment.
- Encourage children to represent their ideas, thoughts and feelings through technology.

[While there is no set educational programme for early years ICT, children should learn about technology as part of achieving the early learning goals] In accordance with the DfE's '[Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage](#)', all educational programmes offered by the setting, including ICT, will work towards the early learning goals (ELGs). This includes:

- **Communication and language:** ICT helps children to develop their self-expression confidence and skills, and allows them to speak and listen in a range of situations.
- **Physical development:** using interactive programmes, computer mice, keyboards and touch screens helps children develop their coordination, control and movement.
- **Personal, social and emotional development:** technology gives pupils access to new ways to express their emotions and interact with others.
- **Literacy:** the internet gives children to access a vast range of media and materials.
- **Mathematics:** ICT enhances children's experiences of learning mathematics and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems, and describing shapes, spaces and measure.
- **Understanding the world:** children will be taught to use the internet to enhance their knowledge of people, places, technology and their physical environment.
- **Expressive arts and design:** interactive games, activities and materials will be used to encourage children to share their creativity and ideas.

Teachers will not use formative assessments for ICT, but will use summative assessments to help track children's progress. Resources will be shared fairly between pupils and, where needed, tasks and equipment will be adjusted to suit pupils' needs and abilities.

The EYFS lead will be responsible for ensuring all staff and parents are aware of the setting's policy on using technology and teaching ICT.

The ICT technician will be responsible for:

- Staying aware of new ICT developments and communicating these to staff, including through bespoke training where necessary.
- Attending appropriate in-service training, including safeguarding training.
- Maintaining the upkeep and use of ICT resources.
- Working with the EYFS lead to establish an annual budget to secure the procurement of the required ICT software and hardware.
- Keeping appropriate records of ICT expenditure to review costs and make suggestions for the future.
- Securing and maintaining ICT resources.
- Ensuring ICT resources are up-to-date, fit for purpose and safe for pupils to use.
- Advising staff on the correct and safe use of digital technologies.

Staff delivering the ICT curriculum will be responsible for:

- Encouraging pupils to apply their knowledge, skills and understanding of ICT in other areas of learning.
- Tailoring lesson delivery according to pupils' age and respective abilities.
- Working with the ICT technician to put reasonable adjustments in place to ensure all pupils can make use of the school's ICT equipment.
- Undertaking summative assessments to ensure the aims set out in this policy are being met.
- Keeping the EYFS lead informed about how the aims of the setting's ICT curriculum are being achieved.
- Supporting children through play and teaching to recognise how technology is used across their lives, such as in their home and school.

The Online Safety Policy will be adhered to at all times. This includes installing internet filters and antivirus software on all devices and ensuring pupils are supervised appropriately when using the internet. In the event of pupils accessing inappropriate content online, safeguarding procedures will be followed in accordance with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

11. Health and safety

The school will promote the good health of children in the EYFS, including the promotion of good oral health.

The EYFS lead will report any accident or injury involving a child to their parents on the day it occurs, and any first-aid treatment administered to a child will also be reported to their parents. Accidents and injuries will be recorded in an accident book, located in lockable cupboard. The headteacher will report any serious accident, illness, injury, or death of a child whilst in the school's care to Ofsted as soon as is reasonably practicable, but within 14 days of the incident occurring. Local child protection agencies will also be notified.

A first-aid box is located outside the classroom door and a small first aid pack is kept by the sink area within the classroom.

Only medicine prescribed to a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist will be administered. The school's Administering Medication Policy outlines the procedures for administering medicines.

Any food or drink provided to children is healthy, balanced and nutritious as outlined in the Whole-School Food Policy. The headteacher will notify Ofsted of any incidents of food poisoning affecting two or more children within 14 days of the incident. Information about any dietary requirements, preferences, food allergies and any special health requirements a child has will be recorded. Fresh drinking water is available at all times.

Smoking is not permitted on the school premises.

The Health and Safety Policy outlines the full health and safety policies and procedures.

The school has a Fire Evacuation Plan in place.

12. Staff taking medication or other substances

The school implements a zero-tolerance approach to drugs and alcohol misuse, as outlined in the Drug and Alcohol Policy.

The use of alcohol or any other substance that may affect the ability to care for children by a member of staff will not be tolerated. If there is a reason to believe a member of staff is under the influence of alcohol or any other substance, they will not be allowed to work directly with children and further action will be taken.

Any member of staff taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children will seek medical advice. Staff will only be allowed to work directly with the children if it is confirmed that the medication is unlikely to impair their ability to look after children properly.

Any medication used by staff is securely stored in lockable first aid cupboard in main disabled toilet by school office.

13. Staffing

A robust Safer Recruitment Policy is in place, which aims to ensure that members of staff employed in the EYFS are suitable.

Upon employment, all EYFS staff receive induction training to ensure that they understand their roles and responsibilities, including information about emergency evacuation procedures, safeguarding, child protection and health and safety.

Staff will be supported to undertake the appropriate training and professional development to ensure children receive the best quality learning experience.

All members of staff who have contact with children and families will be supervised by the EYFS lead. The supervision will provide opportunities for staff to:

- Discuss any issues, particularly concerning the development or wellbeing of children, including any child protection concerns.
- Identify solutions to address issues.

- Receive coaching to improve their effectiveness.

The school provides a staffing ratio in line with the safeguarding and welfare requirements set out in the 'Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage'.

- For children in Reception class sizes will be limited to 30 pupils per school teacher.

14. Information and records

Information is stored in line with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, and with regard to the school's Data Protection Policy.

The following information is recorded for each child:

- The child's name and date of birth
- The name and address of every parent or carer who is known to the school, including information about all persons who have parental responsibility for the child and which parent or carer the child normally lives with
- The emergency contact details of the child's parent or carer

The following information about the school is recorded:

- The school's name, address and telephone number
- The school's certificate of registration
- The name, address and telephone number of anyone who will regularly be in unsupervised contact with the children
- A daily record of the names of the children being cared for in the school and their hours of attendance.

The following information is made available to parents:

- The school's privacy notice for parents and pupils
- How the school delivers the EYFS and how parents can access more information
- The daily routine and the activities offered in the school's EYFS and how parents can assist their child's learning at home
- How the school's EYFS supports children with SEND
- Details of the food and drink provided to the children
- Details of the policies and procedures in place in the school's EYFS

Ofsted will be notified if there are any changes to the following:

- The address of the school
- The school's contact details
- The hours during which care is provided
- Any significant event which is likely to affect the suitability of the school or any person who cares for, or is in regular contact with, children to look after children

15. Parental involvement

We firmly believe that the EYFS cannot function without the enduring support of parents.

Parents are invited to two parents' evenings throughout the school year; however, the school has an open-door policy and parents are welcome to talk to teachers at the start and end of the school day.

- Parents views and knowledge about their own child are listened to e.g. on admission, arrangements for formal/ informal consultations
- Parents are given clear information about the school e.g. prospectus, policy, newsletters, displays, meetings, workshops, Google Classroom etc.
- Home visits help to begin the partnership between parents and the school, and give the children opportunities to meet teachers and experience school life before they enter compulsory education. They also help to make the transition between home and pre-school to primary school a happy and relaxed experience. All of the parents will be given an introductory booklet. This outlines how to support their children's learning at home and an outline of learning strategies at school. They are arranged in the term before the children are due to start school. Although home visits are always offered, parents can choose a school visit if preferred.
- Children will be invited to come to school to visit on three different occasions in the latter part of the summer term, prior to starting school. The children and their parents will be invited to have a school lunch during one of these visits. During the school visits, each child will be given a reading book to take home to share with their parents. A reading diary will also be given in preparation for September. The parents are encouraged to write in the diary, return the diary and book to school and choose another book on the next visit.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to settle their child/children in the morning and choose an activity/resource to use with their child.
- Learning Journeys are shared with parents at regular intervals and are always available for parents and children to access and contribute to. Alongside this the Evidence Me 2Simple assessment platform is used to share snapshot observations of children via email to their parents. These can be responded to at any point with comments and photographs from home and help to build links.
- Wow moment slips are sent home at regular intervals throughout each term to encourage parents/carers to share children's learning and achievements at home.

The school office/meeting room will be utilised for confidential discussions between staff and parents.

Parents are asked to sign permission slips for any visits out of school, use of photographs of their child and using the internet at school. In addition, parents are asked to complete admission forms and a medical form.

16. Transition periods

The following process is in place to ensure children's successful transition to Year 1:

- Children are able to go and visit their Year 1 classroom and teacher in order to take part in some transition activities in the Summer term. This familiarises them with their new environment.

- A Google Classroom platform for Year 1 is set up for the children to join. This allows staff, children and parents to interact and be informed of any information and activities etc.
- In the Summer term, Reception and Year 1 staff will meet to discuss each child's development in order to support a smooth transition to Year 1.

17. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the governing board and the headteacher.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all relevant stakeholders.

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

The next scheduled review date for this policy is August 2022.