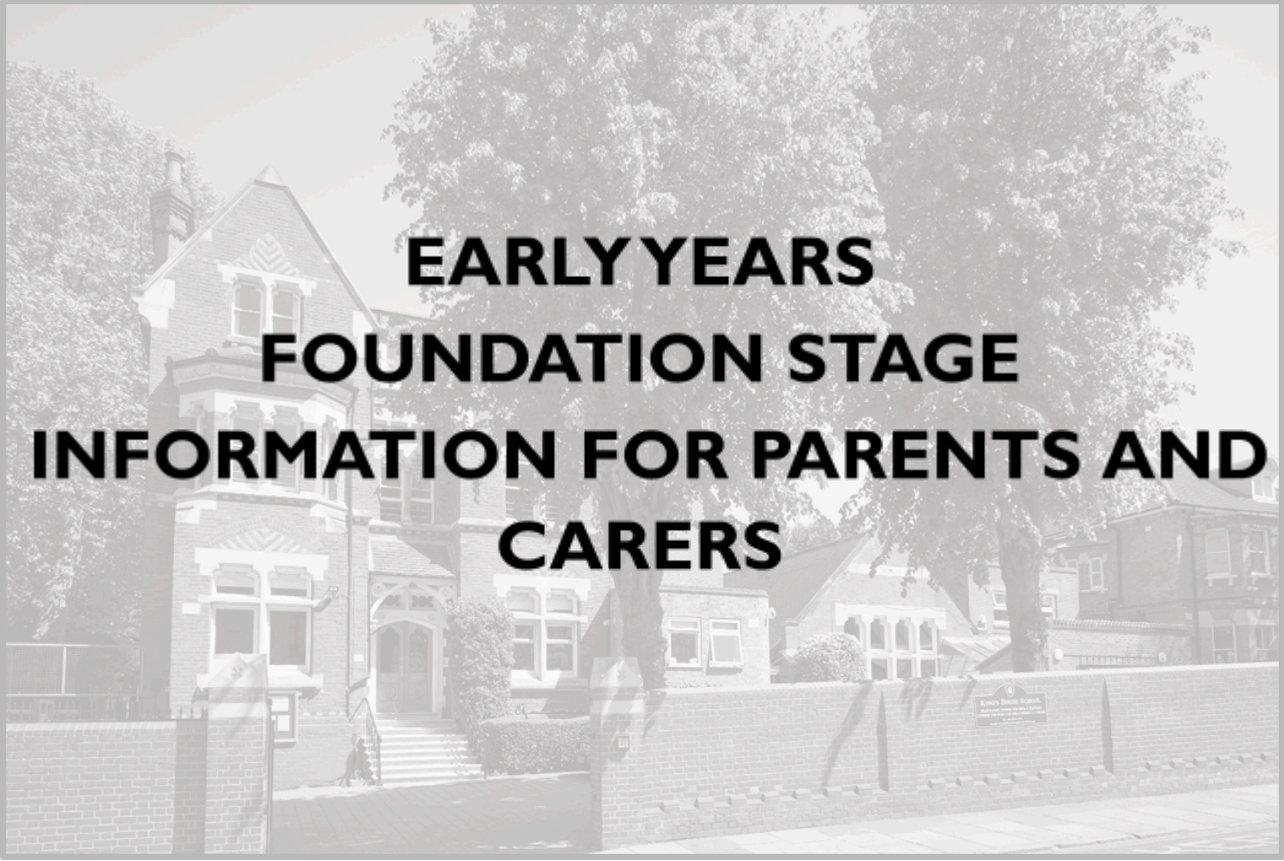




KING'S HOUSE SCHOOL

RICHMOND



EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Member of staff responsible: Head of Nursery

Date of review: July 2024

Date of next review: July 2026

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This policy takes into account the statutory requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage



I. INTRODUCTION

At King's House we believe that Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) education is the foundation upon which young children build the rest of their schooling. It is a holistic education that encompasses all learning and development. A high quality early years' education is an essential factor in a child's development.

This policy outlines the principles, purpose and management of the EYFS at King's House School. The term EYFS refers to all three year groups under the King's House EYFS umbrella; Hedgehogs class, Squirrels/Rabbits class and the two Reception classes. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all staff working with the children in the EYFS.

2. AIMS

- We believe that it is important to value all children as competent learners. Therefore, we recognise their individuality, efforts and achievements.
- We aim to provide a welcoming, safe, secure and caring environment where all children feel valued and their emotional needs are met.
- We believe a high quality EYFS experience provides a firm foundation on which to build future academic, social and emotional success. Key to this is ensuring continuity between other settings, if children attend other childcare, and between the year groups in our Early Years.

Four guiding principles should shape practice in EYFS settings. These are:

- 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**, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is strong partnership between staff and parents/carers.
- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of **Learning and Development** are equally important.

3. THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE FRAMEWORK

More information on EYFS is available at <https://www.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stage>
www.ofsted.gov.uk

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes in Early Years settings. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas of learning are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

The three **Prime** areas;

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The four **Specific** areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied, are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Underpinning principles in EYFS

The staff in the EYFS believe that it is important to value all children as competent learners. Therefore, we recognize their individuality, efforts and achievements. Relationships with adults and children are crucial in a child's life and a relationship with a key person is essential. Children learn best through interaction with people and active exploration of the world around them. The three prime areas reflect the key skills and capacities all children need to develop and learn effectively. Each area of learning and development must be implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult led and child-initiated activity.

Characteristics of Effective Learning:

- Playing and Exploring – engagement/finding out and exploring/playing with what they know/being willing to have a go.
- Active Learning – motivation/being involved and concentrating/keeping trying/enjoying achieving what they set out to do.
- Creating and thinking critically – thinking/having their own ideas/making links/choosing ways to do things.

Learning through Play

Play supports all aspects of children's development, through play children learn by doing rather than being told. Young children are individuals and progress at different rates. Children learn when they are given the appropriate responsibility, allowed to make decisions, choices and errors and are respected as autonomous and competent learners. In the EYFS, the children are encouraged to become independent and they are guided towards looking after their own needs as soon as possible.

The contexts in which children learn need to be relevant, meaningful, motivating and interesting to them. A play based Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum supports all aspects of children's development. Through play both indoors and outdoors children learn by having practical, hands on, meaningful opportunities to experience real life situations, make choices and have ownership over their actions and reactions.

The Early Years Foundation Stage supports the child's inbuilt curiosity and desire to make sense of the world around them and helps them discover that learning is interesting and fun; this is vital if children are going to be keen to learn for the rest of their lives.

4. THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The Nursery is in a separate building with three large, carefully designed classrooms for the Hedgehogs class and Squirrels/Rabbits pre-school classes. This allows the classrooms to be equipped with resources that are suitable for the specific age groups. The Squirrel and Rabbits pre-school classrooms have a separate side room for calm activities and focused circle times.

The Nursery has two outside spaces with a climbing frame, log cabin, sandpit, water play and mud kitchen as well as a road way for trikes and scooters.

The two Reception classes are based in the Junior Department and their resources are carefully selected to ensure they build on the learning that has taken place in the Nursery. Both classrooms have inter-connected outside learning areas with a wealth of activities and a very large sandpit.

We ensure that;

- We provide a stimulating environment with easily accessible resources both indoors and outdoors.
- The learning environment in and out of doors is planned carefully to ensure that children can access and participate in all areas of provision.
- Resources are organised to allow children to access them independently.

- We offer children a range of well-planned play opportunities which offer continuity and progression, e.g. physical play, creative play, imaginative play, social play, play with natural materials.
- We provide play contexts which are well planned and resourced to foster all aspects of children's development (physical, emotional, social and intellectual).
- We provide opportunities and resources which will enable children to appreciate the multicultural society in which they live and reflect the families in our setting.
- We provide appropriate, good quality materials and resources that reflect careful planning and enable children to interact at their own level of development, allowing for progression by exciting children's interests and curiosity.
- We provide stimulating practical activities enabling the children to freely express their creativity.
- We provide a range of Literacy and Numeracy activities and teaching, introducing the children to an understanding of numbers and letters.
- We provide a good balance of child-initiated and adult led activities. Focused circle times start in Hedgehogs Class and we build on these sessions as the children's listening skills develop.

Daily Routines

The EYFS classes all have clear routines that clearly specify times for free-flow activities, circle times, snack times and specific lessons with specialist teachers.

Timetables are displayed on Nursery notice boards and in Reception Classrooms.

5. PLANNING

- Experiences are planned in response to observations of the children and knowledge of the child gained from parents and other sources. They include possible learning and development, but also allow for play to arise spontaneously from children's own ideas.
- Possible learning intentions in short-term planning are drawn and developed from the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and long term planning. Short term planning is completed weekly, informed by observation, assessment and evaluation, but may be altered daily in response to children's interests, needs and responses.
- Adults regularly evaluate, reflect on and develop the provision they make for play.
- Outdoor exploration is important for all children and incorporated into the planning.
- Weekly planning is displayed on the notice boards in the Nursery welcome areas and in the Reception classrooms, teachers have the planning available.



6. ASSESSMENT AND RECORD KEEPING

- Staff take time to look, listen and note while working with the children. Observation helps staff to get to know the children and identify their interests and abilities in order to plan experiences appropriately. Observations are also made to aid future planning and differentiation, according to abilities.
- Age Two Progress checks are a statutory requirement and are carried out during the child's first term at Nursery. They provide a clear indication of a child's starting point and are a valuable tool in identifying any children who would benefit from early intervention.
- On entry data is gathered within 6-8 weeks of a child entering Squirrels/Rabbits class or Reception.
- Staff monitor what has been covered and learning priorities are identified for each child, any gaps are identified and incorporated into future planning.
- Observations, photographs and information is shared with parents via the Arc Pathway App.
- Parents are encouraged to contribute to their child's learning through discussion, parents' evenings, and daily feedback as well as via the Arc Pathway App.
- All data is electronically recorded allowing progress to be tracked and at the end of Reception judgements relating to the EYPP are passed to the LA.
- This information is fed to the Year One teachers as part of the transition process.

7. STAFFING, RATIOS AND SUPERVISION

There is a large team of highly qualified staff in the EYFS at King's House. Hedgehogs class is led by an experienced Nursery teacher and the two Squirrels/Rabbits pre-school classes and the two Reception Classes are led by teachers with Qualified Teaching Status (QTS.) All classes are supported by well qualified and experienced practitioners. Additional specialist staff teach French, PE, Drama, Computing and Music. Our ratios ensure that the children are always well supervised and always are within sight or hearing of an adult. In Hedgehogs class there is a staff to child ratio of at least 1:6 (1:4 where the children are still two years old) and in Squirrels/Rabbits class 1:8. In Reception each class has their own Teacher and Teaching Assistant.

Head of Nursery Department: Mrs Jane O'Brien BA (Hons) QTS

Reception EYFS Coordinator: Mrs Jenny Budgen BA PGCE QTS

A full list of staff and their qualifications can be found on the school website and in the curriculum booklets.

More details can be found in the Pupil Supervision Policy.



8. KEY CARERS

Each child is assigned a key person and parents are introduced to their child's key carer during the first induction session. This role is to help ensure that every child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs, to help them become familiar with the setting, offer a settled relationship for the child and build a relationship with their parents. However, all staff work with all of the children and contribute to observations.

9. PARENTS AS PARTNERS

We believe that parents and families are central to the wellbeing of the child and should be involved in their children's experiences and development. EYFS staff need to make children's learning visible to enable parents to understand, contribute to and support their child's learning. We have an open-door policy throughout the EYFS, and parents are encouraged to speak to the staff whenever any concerns may arise.

- We involve parents and encourage them to contribute to and support their child's learning.
- We welcome parents into the classrooms to talk about their jobs or to share a festival that is special to their family.

10. ADMISSIONS AND INDUCTION

Nursery

Children join the Hedgehogs class of the Nursery in the term in which they turn three years old, however in exceptional circumstances they may join in an earlier term with the agreement of the Head of Nursery provided that they will turn three in that school year. There is therefore a staggered entry over the three terms of the school year. The following September they join the Squirrels/Rabbits pre-school class – when they are rising four. King's House does not accept children under the age of two.

Parents register their interest by completing a registration form. Places are then offered by order of registration, although priority is given to siblings. To accept a place, parents are asked to complete a Nursery Acceptance Form and pay £2,000 comprising a Nursery deposit of £1,000 and a £1,000 fee to reserve a place in Reception. They are also sent a Travelling to Nursery letter.

Prior to entry, the Head of Nursery will invite the parents and children to an induction session "Introduction and Stay & Play Session" where the parents are given a Welcome Pack. As part of the settling-in routine, the Nursery staggers the start date of term for new children.



Reception

In the summer term, four terms before entry into Reception, the Registrar writes to all registered parents to ask them to confirm that they are hoping to be offered a place. We advise parents that priority will be given to those children who are entering the Junior Department from the Nursery. We also give them the opportunity to attend a Visitors Morning.

Pupils entering directly into Reception are offered places, subject to our normal assessment procedure, in order of registration, but with priority given to siblings. In order to maintain the School's co-educational commitment, the School reserves the right to retain ten places for girls each Reception year.

Following confirmation of intended entry, places are offered with an acceptance date of the 30th June of the year preceding entry to Reception. To accept a place, parents are asked to sign a Form of Acceptance and return it to the Registrar with a deposit of £3,500 (for entry in the academic year 2025/26) by 30th June of the year preceding entry to Reception. If the pupil has already attended the Nursery, they will be asked for a further deposit to make up the remaining balance. The Head acknowledges positive replies. If parents do not reply, the school will try to contact them to remind them. Places will then be offered to those on the waiting list.

When all the places have been accepted the Registrar writes to all parents who have not received an offer to inform them that they will only be offered a place if there is a cancellation and to ask if they would like to be kept on the waiting list.

In the Spring Term prior to entry, the Head of the Junior Department writes to welcome parents and their child. He also invites new parents to the familiarisation morning in March and an Induction morning in June. Senior staff and members of the Friends of King's House School attend this meeting. During Induction mornings children have the chance to meet their new teacher and experience their new environment.

II. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

More details can be found in the whole school Equality of Opportunity Policy.

The EYFS staff actively promotes positive attitudes to diversity and differences within all children, parents and staff. The aim is to ensure that we help children and staff learn to value different aspects of their own and other people's lives. This includes ensuring that all people who are in the



EYFS feel included, safe and valued, that all children and adults are treated as individuals and are not discriminated against, and that all children are listened to and respected.

12. LEARNING DEVELOPMENT

In line with the **SEND Code of Practice** we plan for the four areas of need: Communication and interaction, Cognition and Learning, Social and Emotional, Sensory and/or Physical needs.

Identification - We recognise the benefit of early intervention.

1. **Age 2 Progress Check** - The Age 2 progress check is carried out in the child's first term. The report is shared with parents and their view on their child's development forms an important part of it. If a child is not reaching the expected developmental milestones, internal support may be put in place or a referral to an external professional (Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist etc.) The parents are always kept fully informed during this process.

2. **Professional Observation** - All staff continually observe and monitor the children against the expected developmental stages. Any concerns are passed on to the Head of Learning Development, who will also observe, monitor and assess the areas of concern and follow the required cycle of action.

Provision - When appropriate, the Head of Nursery and Head Learning Development will devise interventions that are additional to or different from those provided as part of our usual curriculum and strategies. Strategies employed to enable the child to progress will be recorded within an Individual Education Plan which outlines specialist strategies and targets. We ask parents to share information about the child from other professionals who may already be involved with the child (e.g. Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists, Occupational Therapists etc.). External advice will be supported when suitable for the setting. When applicable, we are able to guide parents when external help of specialists is required.

If it is considered that a pupil's difficulties are more severe and the child requires further support, we may request an Education and Health Care assessment through the Borough, and will support the parents through this process. The school will endeavour to accommodate and make reasonable adjustments through this process.

The Head of Learning support and the Head of Nursery work closely with the Local Authority and attend relevant training to ensure they are fully aware of local offers and updates. They are always



happy to discuss any parental concerns. A member of staff will always seek to contact a parent if they feel that an adjustment to the curriculum or individual education plan followed by their child might be in their best interests, or if there is a specific concern.

13. FOOD AND DRINKS

The children are provided with a varied selection of fresh fruit, vegetables and a plain breadstick or rice cake at snack time. They are offered milk or water to drink. Fresh drinking water is available to children at all times.

Children in Nursery staying for lunch may choose to receive a paid lunch provided by the School or they may bring in their own packed lunch. If the packed lunch contains grapes, cherry tomatoes or similar fruit, these must be prepared so as not to be a choke hazard.

A School provided lunch for all EYFS children is prepared to meet safer eating requirements and is checked by a designated member of staff to ensure each child's food is safe to eat. Children will always be supervised by a staff member with full paediatric first aid when eating.

The School is a nut-free environment. Due to allergies, the School does not allow birthday treats in the EYFS.

14. UNCOLLECTED/MISSING CHILD PROCEDURES

Please refer to the whole school Missing Child Policy

All children are handed over one-to-one at the end of the school day. Once the child is handed over they are the responsibility of the parent/carer. Staff will not hand a child over or let them go unless a known adult is collecting.

If the child is going on a play-date or being collected by a friend or relative, parents are asked to email the Nursery office or class teacher in the morning clearly stating the name and a photograph of the adult who will be collecting.

If a child is not collected at the end of the session, the school will look after the child and make efforts to contact one of the parents or carers. No child would be left unsupervised at any time. A Reception child may be sent to After School Care whilst contact is being made.



Missing Child Procedure

If a child goes missing in the school environment or on an outing a search would be carried out immediately and the police and parents would be called. If contact cannot be made with the child's parents/carer or the emergency contact, the school will contact Richmond Child Welfare Services. The child will remain, fully supervised, in the care of staff until collected.

15. POLICIES

More information can be obtained by reading the following policies on the school website www.kingshouseschool.org Hard copies are available on request from the school office.

- Academic and Curriculum Policy
- Accessibility Policy
- Admissions Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Complaints Procedure Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- English as and Additional Language Policy
- Equality of Opportunity Policy
- Fire Risk Policy and Procedures
- First Aid and Medical Conditions Management Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Learning Support Policy
- Missing Child Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Pupil Behaviour, Discipline and Exclusions Policy
- Relationships and Sex Education Policy
- Risk Assessment Policy
- Safe Handling Policy
- Safeguarding Children Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Supervision of Pupils Policy
- School Vision, Ethos and Aims
- Whistleblowing Policy



16. COMPLAINTS

Further information

Parents of EYFS pupils can also make a complaint to ISI/Ofsted at the contact numbers/address included below, if the complaint is about the fulfilment of the EYFS requirements.

Ofsted

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD
General helpline: 0300 123 1231
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Independent School Inspectorate (ISI)

CAP House
9-12 Long Lane
London
EC1A 9HA
Tel: 020 7600 0100
concerns@isi.net

17. EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Nursery Department

King's House School
The Old School House
Princes Road
Richmond
TW10 6DQ
Telephone: 020 8948 5655
Email: nursery@kingshouseschool.org

Junior Department

King's House School
61 Kings Road
Richmond
Surrey
TW10 6EG
Telephone: 020 8940 7015
Email: juniordepartment@kingshouseschool.org

Senior Department

King's House School
68 Kings Road
Richmond
Surrey
TW10 6ES
Telephone: 020 8940 1878
Email: schooloffice@kingshouseschool.org