



25 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to give you an overview of the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and to inform you of the recent changes that come into effect this September.

What Is the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework is a government document that all schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers in England must follow. It sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. The standards ensure your child will learn and develop well and is kept healthy and safe.

What Will My Child Be Learning?

The EYFS framework outlines seven areas of learning and development.

There are **three prime** areas of learning, which are particularly important for your child's development and future learning:

Communication and Language

Personal, Social and
Emotional Development

Physical Development

There are **four specific** areas of learning, through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied:

Maths

Literacy

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

Our early years team will consider your child's needs and interests to plan challenging and enjoyable activities and experiences following 'In the Moment Planning'.

How Will My Child Be Learning?

The EYFS framework identifies the essential role of play in your child's development. It is through both child-led play and play guided by an adult that your child has already and will continue to develop confidence and relationships. Through play, our early years team will help your child to extend their vocabulary and develop their communication and social skills, which are extremely important to their holistic development.

The EYFS framework identifies three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

Playing and Exploring

Active Learning

Creating and Thinking Critically

How Will I Know How My Child Is Doing?

Our early years team will use their professional knowledge to understand your child's level of development. If we have any concerns about your child's progress, we will discuss these with you and how best you can support your child/children.

We have an open-door policy and want you to feel free to talk to your child's key worker regarding progress or concerns at any time (it is better to agree a time that is convenient for you and the key worker to avoid interruptions).

Discussions at Parent meetings, which will happen termly (either by phone or in person), will inform you on how your child is progressing. At the end of the academic year, a report will be given to you to inform you of your child's progress and whether they have met or are continuing to work towards their early learning goals (ELGs). There are 17 ELGs your child is expected to achieve by the end of the EYFS (the end of the EYFS is their Reception year).

The changes to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has been reformed and there is a new EYFS framework that all schools and settings are required to follow from September 2021. These national changes have been made to better support all pupils' learning and development. It is also aimed that the new framework will better prepare pupils for the transition into Key Stage 1.

There are some elements of the EYFS that have not significantly changed and some that have.

Below are some of the key points from the new EYFS reforms that include relevant changes:

- Early Years staff will be spending less time on large amounts of written observations and assessments for evidence collection. This means they can spend more time supporting and engaging with the children and their learning and development needs.
- Pupils will no longer be assessed against statements from an age band category. Instead, staff will use their experience and knowledge to monitor if a child's learning and development is on track for their age in the various phase.
- There is an emphasis on improving pupil's language and vocabulary through increasing opportunities for conversations, reading of a wide range of books and holding discussions around activities in other areas of learning (we will be using key texts each term).
- Literacy and numeracy skills focused on in the EYFS have been adapted to ensure a better and consistent understanding of the skills they are learning.
- There is no longer an exceeding judgement (at the end of Reception). Pupils will instead be challenged to have a greater depth and understanding of ideas.
- Safeguarding and welfare of pupils is still of upmost priority, with the added mention of teaching pupils about the importance of good oral health and how to keep teeth clean and healthy.

We will be giving out a curriculum map during the first week of the new academic year that will provide you with an insight of what will be the focus in terms of learning and skills alongside the fluidity of your child's/children's interests.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Blessings,

Jo Collins

Early Years Manager

Laying Foundations for Life's Journey

Registered address: 817a Bath Road, Brislington, Bristol, BS4 5NL

t: 0117 977 5678 e: earlyyears@carmelchristianschool.org w: carmelchristianschool.org