



TEACHING & LEARNING POLICY

Date ratified: June 25

Period: June 25 – June 27

Headteacher Signature: Lynsay Falkingham

Chair of Governors Signature: Briony Alder

Review Date: June 27

“Children develop quickly in the early years and a child’s experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances.”

“Good parenting and high-quality early learning provide the foundation children need to fulfil their potential.”

(Statutory Framework for the EYFS)

Rationale

At Lanterns Nursery School we provide a range of services for young children and their families. Our priority is to provide high quality educational experiences, integrated care and inclusive education. We ensure that the teaching and learning of young children, whatever their age and whichever provision they are accessing, is of the highest quality.

We believe that children learn most effectively through play-based experiences, which allows children to develop their interests and recognises that children learn in different ways and that the pace of learning is individual. We focus on the characteristics of effective learning in order that children develop into excellent learners for life.

In order for children to learn and develop, their basic needs must be met. We work closely with parents to ensure that parents can provide this. We place emphasis on the prime areas of learning and specifically on personal, social and emotional development. As part of this, we adopt a trauma informed approach, support attachment theory through a key person approach, ensure that we support children’s needs through sensory integration and have strategies in place to support children with their emotional regulation.

We have developed ‘Lanterns Nursery School Curriculum’ and ‘The Lanterns Curriculum in Action’ which includes our approach to teaching and learning. This can be found on our website.

The **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework** sets out the standards for the learning, development, and care of children from birth to age five in England. Below are some **key points** from the 2024 EYFS guidance related to teaching and learning for under-5s. Our teaching, learning and curriculum incorporate these key aspects and are reflective of our individual class cohorts and the Lanterns Nursery School Community.

Overarching Principles

1. **Every child is a unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident, and self-assured.
2. **Children learn to be strong and independent** through positive relationships.
3. **Children learn and develop well in enabling environments**, with teaching and support from adults who respond to their individual interests and needs.
4. **Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.**

Areas of Learning and Development

There are **seven areas** of learning and development, split into:

- **Prime Areas** (crucial for igniting curiosity and enthusiasm for learning):
 - Communication and language
 - Physical development
 - Personal, social and emotional development
- **Specific Areas** (develop essential skills and knowledge):
 - Literacy
 - Mathematics
 - Understanding the world
 - Expressive arts and design

Educational Programmes

Each area of learning has a dedicated educational programme that outlines what children should experience and learn. These are designed to be **broad, balanced, and developmentally appropriate**.

Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning

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

Assessment

- **Ongoing assessment** through observation and interaction.
- **Progress check at age two** to identify strengths and areas for development.

Role of the Practitioner

- Practitioners are expected to **plan and guide children's activities** based on the areas of learning.
- They must **respond to each child's emerging needs and interests**, guiding their development through warm, positive interactions.

At Lanterns Nursery School we recognise that learning is a life-long process and improves outcomes for both children and adults. We are committed to promoting learning throughout Lanterns Nursery School providing opportunities and sign posting for adults to develop skills, gain qualifications and develop confidence and self-esteem. We offer training courses that can lead to a separate qualification or may provide pathways to gaining further qualifications in the future. We regularly share information with parents, keeping them up to date with learning that their children are engaging in, how they can support their children at home and signposting to further information.