

# Kingston St Mary C of E Primary School



## EYFS Policy

**Member of staff responsible:** Mrs Jo Griffiths

**Date approved by the governors:** This is a draft/working document.

**To be reviewed Annually**

*“Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential.”*

*(EYFS Framework, 2024)*

### **Aims**

This policy aims to ensure:

- Children access a broad and balanced curriculum that gives them the range of knowledge and skills needed for good progress through school and life.
- Quality and consistency in teaching and learning so that every child makes good progress and no child is left behind.
- A close working partnership between staff and parents and/or carers.
- Every child is included and supported through equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.

### **Legislation**

This policy is based on requirements set out in the [‘Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\)’](#) (September 2024).

**The Curriculum** (Please see appendix A for the KSM EYFS Curriculum.)

**“Our EYFS Curriculum has been designed to reflect the nature of our beautiful environment, the seasons of the year and the nature around our school. It aims to teach the children how their environment compares to other places, cultures and nature in other parts of the world. It is therefore unique to Kingston St Mary Church of England Primary School”. KSM EYFS Curriculum 2024 (Appendix A)**

The KSM EYFS curriculum has been written in accordance with the latest version of the [‘Statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\)’](#) (September 2024). The EYFS framework includes seven areas of learning and development that are important and interconnected:

These are categorised as three prime areas and four specific areas:

### Three prime areas:

- Communication and language
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Physical development

### Four specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

We have developed the curriculum giving **communication and language** skills a high priority. This is in line with Development Matters 2020: *“The development of children’s spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Children’s back-and-forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development. The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial. By commenting on what children are interested in or doing, and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added, practitioners will build children’s language effectively.”*

A high priority is also given to the teaching of **reading**. We aim to teach children to read and develop a love of books as soon as they arrive at KSM, and books are used to teach topics and to enhance our whole curriculum.

We follow a systematic approach to **phonics** teaching based on the Read, Write Inc. Phonics scheme.

We underpin our curriculum with the Personal Social and Emotional Development of all our children. We strive to enable children to be safe, happy, confident individuals. We also encourage self-regulation as much as possible and introduce rules and boundaries through modelling good behaviour and reflection time. We teach the children the KSM School Learning Values based on our Learning Value superheroes. These values underpin our whole curriculum and teaching style throughout the Reception year and follow on throughout the school.

The KSM Curriculum is based around cross-curricular topics. Each topic planned is included in the curriculum for specific reasons and we want to ensure that all children leave the Reception Year ready to start the KS1 curriculum. Each topic does not last a specific amount of time but is based on the children’s learning at the time, and so a topic can run from anything between two and seven weeks. All the topics have resources and activities ready to use in the enhanced provision. Topics are introduced with a good quality storybook or age-appropriate non-fiction text. Using books in this way teaches children that books and reading form the basis of all learning.

## Teaching and Learning

**We believe in the three characteristics of effective teaching and learning that are set out in Development Matters 2021 (revised 2023). These are:**

**Playing and exploring** – children investigate and experience things, and ‘have a go’.

**Active learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achieving.

**Creating and thinking critically** – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

The KSM curriculum is ambitious and aims to teach all children the skills and knowledge in order that they reach the seventeen Early Learning Goals described in the Early Years Foundation Stage (*see Appendix B*). We teach through a range of teaching methods including child-initiated learning, whole class teaching, group teaching, investigations and problem solving together, and independently. As many activities as possible are play-based; however, there is also a need for direct teacher-led activities to ensure children gain essential knowledge and skills from their teacher. All activities are expertly modelled and children are given sufficient time, support and resources to repeat and practise them.

## **Assessment**

During the first term in Reception, the teacher assesses the ability of each child using a mixture of the statutory government baseline and teacher observations. These assessments allow us to identify patterns of attainment within the cohort, to adjust the teaching programme for individual children and groups of children. We record each child's level of development throughout the year and record whether each child is on track or not on track to meet a Good Level of Development (GLD) at the end of the year in July. This information is shared with parents during Parent Meetings and with an end of year written report. The end of year data is shared with the Local Authority.

Children will be judged at either an emerging level or an expected level in each early learning goal. We make regular assessments of children's learning, and we use this information to ensure that future planning reflects identified needs. Assessment in the Foundation Stage takes the form of both formal and informal observations and through planned activities. Assessment is completed regularly and involves both the teacher, teaching assistants, parents and children, as appropriate.

## **Inclusion**

All children will receive quality first teaching daily and activities will be differentiated accordingly. In addition to this, where children have been identified as having a specific need, intervention programmes will be implemented. Teachers and Teaching Assistants plan programmes together and where needed, with liaison with the Special Needs Co-ordinator.

## **Safeguarding and welfare procedures**

It is important to us that all children in the school are 'safe'. We aim to educate children on boundaries, rules and limits and to help them understand why they exist. We provide children with choices to help them develop this important life skill. We help children to self-regulate and manage their emotions appropriately and Personal Social and Emotional Education is at the heart of everything we do.

Children should be allowed to take risks but need to be taught how to recognise and avoid hazards. We aim to protect the physical and psychological well-being of all children. We know that children learn best when they are healthy and safe, when their individual needs are met and when they have the chance to build positive relationships with the adults around them and their peers.

We participate in the free fruit and milk for under-fives scheme. For our Reception children we provide the universal infant free school meals. We make sure that children with allergies or other dietary requirements are catered for in conjunction with our catering providers.

Fresh water is readily available for all children and we encourage children to bring in water bottles so that they can help themselves to water at any time.

## **Structure and Staffing of the EYFS**

The EYFS at KSM consists of one Reception Class. The Reception Class is taught by one qualified primary school teacher.

The class also has teaching assistants throughout the week.

Specialist teachers are brought in for PE lessons.

Children can arrive at school from 8:30am where they will walk to the playground and wait for the bell to go at 8:40am. The school day ends at 3:10pm.

The children have lunch and breaks with the other children in the school. The class join the main school for assemblies and other whole school events.

## **Parental Involvement**

We recognise that parents/carers are children's first educators and we value having a positive relationship with them in their child's education through:

- ✓ Inviting the children for a week of mornings, then mornings plus lunch time to ease transition into full days at school.
- ✓ Operating an open-door policy for parents/carers with any queries or concerns. Conversely, if EYFS staff have concerns about the progress of a child, they will approach parents and carers to discuss them.
- ✓ Written contact through reading records and termly newsletters.
- ✓ Sharing photos, updates on class dojo (our online communication and home learning platform).
- ✓ Offering two, parent-teacher consultation meetings per year at which their child's progress and wellbeing is discussed.
- ✓ Asking parents to sign a generic permission form for visits, food-tasting and photographs etc.
- ✓ Parents are invited to a range of activities throughout the school year such as special events, workshops, Christmas productions and sports day etc.
- ✓ Offering opportunities for parents and carers to visit the school as a volunteer to assist with the children's learning e.g. hearing readers.

## **Transition**

Starting school can be a difficult time for young children; we therefore plan this time carefully to support children with the transition and to ensure it is as smooth as possible for each child and that they settle into their new class quickly and happily.

We have a tried and tested induction programme which includes:

- An induction meeting for parents so that teachers can get to know parents and carers and ask about the individual children. The teacher gives parents practical information such as the ethos of the school, vision and values, information about equipment and uniform needed.
- Pupils have two settling in visits – two afternoons and one morning – in the summer term.
- A gradual introduction to the school day. Children do a week of mornings and a week of mornings and lunchtimes. This introduces the children to their new routines gradually and this enables children to be less overwhelmed.

When children transition into Year 1, the teacher has time with the Year 1 teacher to give them all the relevant welfare, academic and general information about all the children leaving the EYFS. Depending on the size of cohorts, Year 1 children may be in a mixed age class with Reception children.

### **Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Early Years teacher every 2 years. At each review, the policy will be shared with the governing board. The Early Years governor will liaise with the EYFS lead teacher annually to discuss the EYFS Action Plan and relevant Strategic School Development Plan (SSDP) sections.

Mrs Jo Griffiths

EYFS Teacher

**The EYFS Reception Year Curriculum at KSM Primary School**

**INTRODUCTION / AIMS**

**Our EYFS Curriculum has been designed to reflect the nature of our beautiful environment, the seasons of the year and the nature around our school. It aims to teach the children how their environment compares to other places, cultures and nature in other parts of the world. It is therefore unique to KSM C of E Primary School.** Each topic planned is included in the curriculum for specific reasons and we want to ensure that all children leaving the Reception Year are ready to start the KS1 curriculum. Each topic does not last a specific amount of time but is based on the children’s learning at the time, and so a topic can run from anything between two and seven weeks. All the topics have resources and activities ready to use in the enhanced provision. Topics are introduced with a good quality storybook or age appropriate non – fiction text. Using books in this way teaches children that books and reading form the basis of all learning.

This ambitious Early Year’s curriculum aims to teach all children the skills and knowledge in order that they reach the seventeen Early Learning Goals described in the Early Years Foundation Stage. We teach through a range of teaching methods including child-initiated learning, whole class teaching, group teaching, investigations and problem solving together, and independently. As many activities as possible are play-based; however, there is also a need for direct teacher-led activities to ensure children gain essential knowledge and skills from their teacher. All activities are expertly modelled, and children are given sufficient time, support and resources to repeat and practise them.

**Personal Social and Emotional Development**

We strive to enable children to be safe, happy, confident individuals. We also encourage self-regulation as much as possible and introduce rules and boundaries through modelling good behaviour and reflection time. We teach the children the KSM School Learning Values based on our Learning Value Superheroes. These values underpin our whole curriculum and teaching style throughout the Reception year. These values then follow on throughout the school.

**Physical Development**

Our stunning outdoor environment and expansive grounds enables us to make the most of the outdoors and we encourage children to play outside as much as possible. Our intention is that children learn how to take measured risks and they are given access to our own Reception outdoor area and whole playground and play area. We encourage children to learn about nature and look after their environment through

regular welly walks. There is a well-established and comprehensive PE curriculum, which includes children being taught Dance, Gymnastics, Athletics and Invasion Games by a qualified PE coach. Children are taught about the importance of regular exercise and healthy eating, and are encouraged to join in with whole-school sports initiatives such as intra-school competitions, and the daily Golden Mile.

### **Communication and Language**

Children are encouraged to listen and communicate appropriately. We enhance the classroom and outdoor garden area to reflect the topic learnt. Each topic encompasses enhancements to the learning environment that include role-play areas, small-world play and story-making tables to encourage the children to act out scenarios and discuss concepts being learnt. This helps children learn and use new vocabulary introduced through the topics. Children are encouraged to ask questions and contribute to whole-class and group discussion whenever possible. Children who struggle to communicate are targeted in the provision and learning interventions are used when children lack confidence or do not have the age-appropriate skills.

### **Reading and Phonics**

We aim to teach children to read and develop a love of books as soon as they arrive at KSM School, and books are used to teach topics and to enhance our whole curriculum.

We follow a systematic approach to phonics teaching based on the Read, Write Inc. Phonics scheme. Phonics lessons are taught daily for twenty-five minutes. In addition to daily phonics, children take part in guided reading twice a week, either in small groups or individually. They read one reading book per week based on the phonics phase being taught. A reading book is taken home once a week and children also have sound cards and 'red words' to learn. Children are also encouraged to take home age-appropriate picture books from the class library and books in the library are changed each half-term to reflect the different seasons, topics taught and children's interests. Teachers read stories to children from high quality age-appropriate texts at every available opportunity. These books are then used to enhance the learning environment and reading area. Children who need extra help with phonics are targeted in the provision by key members of staff. Precision teaching is used for children who struggle to retain their knowledge of the sounds taught.

### **Writing**

We introduce writing straight away, and teach handwriting alongside the Read, Write Inc. curriculum. Guided writing activities are also taught in groups. These include writing topic words, lists, captions and short narratives. Guided writing activities are based on the topic being taught and the class book is often used as a basis for writing. Children are also encouraged to write in the provision in the role-play area, writing area,

maths area, library and outdoors. The children are provided with a range of pencils, pens, and other media to encourage them to write as much as possible. We hope to inspire children to write independently after they have been introduced to writing skills in their guided writing sessions.

### **Mathematics**

Children are taught maths through guided group work and whole-class activities. We also use maths enhancement activities in the different areas in the classroom, including the outdoors. The main aim of the maths curriculum is to teach children to be able to order numbers to ten automatically as soon as possible. We begin by concentrating on one number a week in the first term, with the aim that children have a better understanding of one-digit numbers before they move on to place value, calculation and arithmetic later in the year. Children also learn shape, space and measure skills and knowledge through guided work and as activities in the enhanced provision. The first term's Mr Men topic introduces all the basic shapes and we feel introduces mathematical concepts to the children from the very start of their learning with us. Children who need extra help with mathematics are targeted in the provision by key members of staff. We work hard to ensure the children are ready for the National Curriculum by the end of the Reception year.

### **Knowledge and Understanding of the World**

We strive to give children knowledge about the world around them is KSM and the rest of the world. Science is taught through most of our topics. For example, we observe ice in our Antarctica topic and investigate how ice melts and forms through real hands-on experiences. Staff are very knowledgeable about local wildlife and plant species, and endeavour to pass this knowledge on to children at every opportunity. We also have our own pond for pond dipping throughout spring and summer. Our Life Cycle topic links particularly well to our nature walks, and we always have caterpillars growing in our classroom so that children are encouraged to see nature changing over time.

Geography is taught, including maps and countries of the world, through our Celebrations and Wider World topics. Similarly, we introduce the children to history learning through our Transport and Cities topic. For example, we look at old and new buildings and how buildings have changed over time. We teach RE throughout the year based on celebrations including, The Diwali story, The Christmas story and the Easter Story so that children are introduced to different belief systems.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

At KSM, we want children to sing songs, make music, dance and perform. Children are given time to play imaginative games and make up stories, songs and dances.

In art, the children are taught how to safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. Child-initiated art activities are encouraged during continuous provision as well as art and crafts being taught by the staff. We endeavour that children leave Reception with good art skills, as well as encouraging them to use their own ideas and techniques in their art and design work.

### **Planning Documents**

Long term planning documents and knowledge organisers can be found on our school website.

## Appendix B - 17 Early Learning Goals – EYFS

Communication and Language
<b>Listening, Attention and Understanding</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions.</li> <li>Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding.</li> <li>Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers.</li> </ul>
<b>Speaking</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary.</li> <li>Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.</li> <li>Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher.</li> </ul>

Personal, Social and Emotional Development
<b>Self-Regulation</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others, and begin to regulate their behaviour accordingly.</li> <li>Set and work towards simple goals, being able to wait for what they want and control their immediate impulses when appropriate.</li> <li>Give focused attention to what the teacher says, responding appropriately even when engaged in activity, and show an ability to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions.</li> </ul>
<b>Managing Self</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be confident to try new activities and show independence, resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge.</li> <li>Explain the reasons for rules, know right from wrong and try to behave accordingly.</li> <li>Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices.</li> </ul>
<b>Building Relationships</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work and play cooperatively and take turns with others.</li> <li>Form positive attachments to adults and friendships with peers.</li> <li>Show sensitivity to their own and to others' needs.</li> </ul>

Physical Development
<b>Gross Motor Skills</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others.</li> <li>Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing.</li> <li>Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing.</li> </ul>
<b>Fine Motor Skills</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases.</li> <li>Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery.</li> <li>Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.</li> </ul>

Understanding the World
<b>Past and Present</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society.</li> <li>Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.</li> <li>Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling.</li> </ul>
<b>People, Culture and Communities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps.</li> <li>Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.</li> <li>Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and (when appropriate) maps.</li> </ul>
<b>The Natural World</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.</li> <li>Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.</li> <li>Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.</li> </ul>

Expressive Arts and Design	Mathematics
<b>Creating with Materials</b>	<b>Number</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.</li> <li>Share their creations, explaining the process they have used.</li> <li>Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number.</li> <li>Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5.</li> <li>Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10, including double facts.</li> </ul>
<b>Being Imaginative and Expressive</b>	<b>Numerical Patterns</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher.</li> <li>Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs.</li> <li>Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and (when appropriate) try to move in time with music.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system.</li> <li>Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity.</li> <li>Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally.</li> </ul>

Literacy
<b>Comprehension</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.</li> <li>Anticipate (where appropriate) key events in stories.</li> <li>Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role play.</li> </ul>
<b>Word Reading</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs.</li> <li>Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending.</li> <li>Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.</li> </ul>
<b>Writing</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.</li> <li>Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters.</li> <li>Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.</li> </ul>