



Greenholm Primary School EYFS Policy

At Greenholm Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that all children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) have access to a rich and engaging education that supports their development, enabling them to thrive and achieve their full potential. Our vision is that “At Greenholm, we want all of our children to be happy, confident, motivated, and ready for success.” This policy outlines how we will support our youngest learners by providing a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child is valued and encouraged to flourish.

We believe in fostering a supportive atmosphere that reflects our values of Being Responsible, Being Kind, Being Respectful, Being Curious, and Being Resilient. We aim to work collaboratively with families and other professionals to ensure that every child’s developmental needs are met and that they have the best possible start to their learning journey.

Introduction

At Greenholm Primary School, we recognize the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) as a critical period in every child’s educational journey. The first experiences children have in school set the foundation for their future learning, fostering curiosity, independence, and a love for learning that will carry them through the rest of their education. Our EYFS curriculum provides a secure, inclusive, and stimulating environment where children are encouraged to explore, play, and develop the building blocks for lifelong learning.

We aim to meet and exceed the statutory requirements of the EYFS framework, ensuring that every child receives a rich and varied experience, fully preparing them for the next stages of their educational journey. Our EYFS provision reflects the core values of Greenholm Primary School—embracing inclusivity, fostering a supportive and respectful community, and promoting high standards for all our learners.

Aims

At Greenholm Primary, we believe that early childhood is a time of exploration and discovery, and through carefully structured play and guided learning, children develop essential skills and a positive disposition towards learning. Our primary goal is to create a learning environment that is engaging, nurturing, and responsive to the individual needs of each child.

Our EYFS aims are to:

- **Provide a safe, stimulating, and well-resourced environment** where children are encouraged to explore and learn through play.
- **Ensure a broad and balanced curriculum** that supports children’s holistic development—intellectual, emotional, physical, and social—while working towards achieving the Early Learning Goals.
- **Foster independence, resilience, and a positive attitude** towards learning in every child.
- **Build strong partnerships with parents and carers**, recognizing them as their child’s first educators, and involving them in their child’s learning and development at every stage.



Curriculum

Our EYFS curriculum is based on the statutory framework and incorporates the four key principles of effective early years practice:

1. **Every child is unique** and learns at their own pace. We celebrate this individuality by offering personalized learning experiences tailored to each child's needs.
2. **Children learn through positive relationships.** We cultivate a warm, caring, and respectful environment where every child feels valued.
3. **Enabling environments** are crucial to successful learning. Our classrooms and outdoor spaces are thoughtfully designed to encourage active exploration, creativity, and problem-solving.
4. **Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates,** and we provide a flexible curriculum that supports these varied developmental pathways.

Our curriculum covers the **seven areas of learning** as outlined in the EYFS framework:

- **Prime Areas:** Communication and Language, Physical Development, and Personal, Social and Emotional Development.
- **Specific Areas:** Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, and Expressive Arts and Design.

At Greenholm, children's learning experiences are a blend of adult-led activities and child-initiated play. This balanced approach allows us to meet children where they are developmentally while encouraging them to take ownership of their learning. A significant part of our curriculum takes place outdoors in our **richly resourced outdoor learning area**, where children engage with nature and explore different materials and textures. Additionally, our **on-site farm** provides unique opportunities for children to learn about the world around them through hands-on experiences with animals and plants, enhancing their understanding of natural environments.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Greenholm Primary is fully committed to providing an inclusive and equitable education for all children. We ensure that every child, regardless of their background, abilities, or specific needs, can access the curriculum and participate fully in all aspects of school life. Our staffing is tailored to meet the **assessed needs** of the children, with class teachers and teaching assistants working closely together to provide the right support for every learner.

For children with **special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)**, we work in close partnership with parents, external professionals, and support services to provide tailored interventions that help each child reach their full potential. The school ensures that the EYFS environment, curriculum, and resources are accessible to all children, including those with physical, sensory, or learning difficulties.



In addition, we actively promote cultural diversity and inclusivity throughout the EYFS curriculum, ensuring that all children see their own lives, cultures, and experiences reflected in their learning. This commitment is underpinned by our school values of respect, fairness, and equality.

Parental Involvement

At Greenholm, we firmly believe that parents are key partners in their child's learning and development. We actively involve parents in the EYFS through:

- **Regular parents' evenings** and informal check-ins at pick-up and drop-off times, where we discuss their child's progress and share insights about their learning.
- **Workshops and sessions for parents**, including those on phonics, literacy, and other curriculum areas, providing them with tools to support learning at home.
- **Tapestry**, our online learning journal, allows parents to see their child's learning journey and contribute to it by sharing observations from home.
- **Class Dojo**, which we use to communicate updates, celebrate achievements, and ensure regular and effective communication between home and school.

We understand that parents are a child's first educators, and by fostering open communication and collaboration, we can create a stronger, more supportive learning environment for every child.

Assessment

Children's progress in the EYFS is assessed continuously through observation and interaction. Our staff use these assessments to plan future learning, ensuring that each child's individual needs and interests are met. We place a strong emphasis on **formative assessment**, which allows us to track children's ongoing development and adjust our teaching approaches accordingly. We undertake statutory baseline testing within the first 6 weeks of the autumn term and then assess at key points across the year to gather an accurate understanding of progress towards the ELGs. This assessment data informs future planning and delivery of teaching and learning. Assessment data is logged on the school's assessment tracking system.

Parents receive regular updates on their child's progress via **Tapestry**, and we hold formal parent-teacher meetings to discuss each child's development once a term. At the end of the Reception year, children's progress is assessed against the **Early Learning Goals** and shared with parents in a written report, providing a comprehensive picture of their readiness for Year 1.

At Greenholm Primary School, the Early Years Foundation Stage is more than just the beginning of a child's formal education—it is the foundation upon which a lifetime of learning is built. Through our balanced, child-centred approach, we strive to ignite a love for learning, foster curiosity, and equip every child with the skills and confidence they need to succeed in school and beyond. By working together with parents and providing a nurturing, inclusive environment, we ensure that every child's earliest educational experiences are positive, meaningful, and impactful.