

# Crosscanonby St John's C of E Primary School



## Parents' Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

Exciting times ahead for you and your child

### What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

This is the time in your child's life between the ages of birth to five .

This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.

### What is the EYFS Framework – why do we have one?

Schools must follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

- In 2012 the framework was revised to make it clearer and easier to use, with more focus on the things that matter most. This new framework also has a greater emphasis on your role in helping your child develop.
- It sets out the expected levels that your child should reach at age 5, usually the end of the reception year; these expectations are called the “**Early Learning Goals (ELGs)**” In the new framework the expected levels are much higher than in previous years.
- The legal welfare requirements that everyone registered to look after children must follow to keep your child **safe** and promote their welfare .

## How my child will be learning

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development**.

Children should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first.

These are:

Communication and Language;

Physical Development; and

Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas**. These are:

Literacy;

Mathematics;

Understanding the World; and

Expressive Arts and Design.



These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The people teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in primary and secondary schools, but it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.



## When your child is 5

At the end of the EYFS – in the summer term of the reception year in school – teachers complete an assessment which is known as the **EYFS Profile**. This assessment is carried out by the Reception teacher and is based on what they, and other staff caring for your child, have observed over a period of time.

Another important part of the EYFS Profile is your knowledge about your child's learning and development, so do let your child's class teacher know about what your child does with you: such as how confident your child is in writing their name, reading and talking about a favourite book, speaking to people your child is not so familiar with or their understanding of numbers.

All of the information collected is used to judge how your child is doing in the 7 areas of learning and development. Finding out at this stage how your child is doing will mean that the teacher your child has in their next school year – year 1 – will know what your child really enjoys doing and does well, as well as helping them decide if your child needs any extra support.

The school will give you a report of your child's progress, including information from his or her EYFS Profile



## As a mum or dad, how can I help with my child's learning?

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school.

Even when your child is very young and is not yet able to talk, talking to them helps them to learn and understand new words and ideas. If you make the time every day to do some of the following things with your child it will make a real difference to your child's confidence as a young learner.



Please share with your school some of the things that you and your child do together.