



Weare Academy

C of E First School

All Can Achieve

EYFS Policy

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At Weare Academy Church of England First School, all policies and practices are rooted in our Christian vision and ethos.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

Our vision for Weare Academy Church of England First School is that:

'All can achieve'

Our Mission Statement

Our mission is to instill a lifelong love for learning; empowering our pupils to develop into **Aspirational** and **Resilient** individuals, who are **Kind, Respectful,** and **Responsible** members of society. We strive to deliver high-quality education in a safe and inclusive environment with Christian Values at its core. Our pupils are taught to be **Curious** about themselves, others and the world. Together these values enable children at Weare Academy CofE First School to flourish and achieve their full potential.

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Aims

This policy aims to ensure:

- That children access a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum that gives them the knowledge, skills and vocabulary 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 gets 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 the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (DfE, September 2025)

Structure of the EYFS

At Weare Academy C of E First School, our Early Years provision includes Rainbow Woods Pre-School for 2, 3 and 4 year olds and a Reception class, with space for 30 children.

Rainbow Woods is a 22-place setting housed in its own unit, comprising of a large indoor/outdoor area, an Early Years Nature Garden and a physical development zone. Rainbow Woods operates term time only, from 8:00am to 5:30pm.

Our Reception class is a spacious and well-resourced classroom, with an easily accessible continuous provision area, alongside a large indoor/outdoor area and a shared Early Years Nature Garden.



Curriculum

Our Early Years curriculum follows the EYFS statutory framework (DfE, September 2025) and is shaped by our Christian vision and values of aspiration, respect, resilience, responsibility, kindness and curiosity. Guided by our belief that every child is uniquely created and capable of flourishing, our curriculum is designed to enable children to experience joy in learning and develop a lifelong love of discovery.

It is carefully sequenced to ensure children develop the foundational knowledge, skills and vocabulary required for success in Key Stage 1, while remaining responsive to children's interests, curiosity and developmental needs.

Learning is rooted in play, exploration and purposeful interaction. We place a strong emphasis on developing children's spoken language and communication, recognising this as a critical foundation for future learning, reading and writing, and for building positive relationships.

The EYFS framework consists of seven areas of learning, which are equally important and interconnected.

The Prime Areas are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The Specific Areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

4.1 Planning

Our Early Years Foundation Stage provides a happy, safe, caring and stimulating environment in which children build on what they already know and can do.

Planning is flexible and responsive, informed by high-quality observations that identify children's interests, strengths and next steps. Trained staff focus particularly on the Prime Areas for younger children, ensuring secure foundations for learning.

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We foster curiosity, independence and a sense of wonder, and provide timely support for children who may face barriers to learning. Where a child has a special educational need or disability, we work closely with parents and external professionals to provide appropriate support.

4.2 Teaching

Teaching is delivered through a carefully planned balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities, with purposeful play at its core. Through our inquiry-based curriculum, children are encouraged to ask questions, explore ideas, investigate their world and make connections across areas of learning. This approach supports curiosity, deep thinking and sustained engagement, enabling children to become confident, motivated learners.

Trained staff establish warm, secure and trusting relationships with children, recognising the importance of emotional security in enabling learning. High-quality interactions are central to our practice, with adults modelling language, extending vocabulary, posing thoughtful questions and providing timely support and challenge that moves learning forward.

Learning experiences are thoughtfully designed to build progressively on children's prior knowledge and experiences, while remaining responsive to emerging interests. Adults observe carefully, intervene skillfully and know when to step back, allowing children the space to explore independently and develop resilience and confidence.

Outdoor learning is an integral part of our inquiry-based approach. It provides rich opportunities for exploration, collaboration, physical development and managed risk-taking, supporting children to develop courage, independence and a growing understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Assessment

Ongoing assessment is integral to learning and development in the EYFS. Staff observe children to identify achievement, interests and learning styles, using this information to inform future planning.

When a child is aged between 2 and 3, a statutory Progress Check at Age Two is completed and shared with parents, focusing on development within the Prime Areas.

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Within the first six weeks of starting Reception, children complete the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA).

At the end of the EYFS, staff complete the EYFS Profile in line with the statutory Early Learning Goals (2024). Children are assessed as either:

- Meeting expected levels of development
- Not yet reaching expected levels (emerging)

Judgements are based on secure, consistent and independent attainment and are informed by ongoing observations and discussions with parents. EYFS Profile data is moderated internally and with local schools and submitted to the local authority.

Working with parents

We recognise parents and carers as children's first and most enduring educators and value strong partnerships built on trust, mutual respect and shared responsibility. In living out our value of Community, we work closely with families to support children's learning, wellbeing and development.

We support this partnership through:

- Pre-entry discussions and 'All About Me' information
- Welcome visits
- Transition visits and induction meetings
- Stay and Play sessions and curriculum information events
- Regular communication via online learning journals and reading records
- Formal parent consultations and informal daily dialogue
- Opportunities to engage in school life through events, workshops, worship and the Parent Teacher Association

Information is shared securely and appropriately in line with data protection legislation.

Safeguarding and welfare procedures

Children's safety, wellbeing and dignity are central to all aspects of our EYFS provision and reflect our Christian commitment to love and care for one another. We create an environment where children feel safe, secure, valued and confident to explore, take appropriate risks and develop independence.



Safeguarding arrangements follow statutory guidance and are detailed within the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

All staff working in the EYFS meet suitability requirements, including enhanced DBS checks, disqualification declarations where applicable, and regular safeguarding training.

At least one member of staff with a current paediatric first aid certificate is on site and available at all times when children are present, including during outings.

We promote good oral and general health, including healthy eating, personal hygiene and supervised tooth brushing where appropriate, delivered in line with NHS and local authority guidance.

Children are supported to understand risk, safety boundaries and how to keep themselves safe, including online safety in Reception, enabling them to develop courage, resilience and responsibility.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy is reviewed annually by the Early Years Lead and Nursery Manager and approved by the Local Partnership Board.



Appendix 1. List of statutory policies and procedures for the EYFS

Statutory policy or procedure for the EYFS	Where can it be found?
Safeguarding policy and procedures	See child protection and safeguarding policy
Procedure for responding to illness	See health and safety policy
Administering medicines policy	See supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
Emergency evacuation procedure	See Emergency Evacuation Policy
Procedure for checking the identity of visitors	See child protection and safeguarding policy
Procedures for a parent failing to collect a child and for missing children	See child protection and safeguarding policy
Procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints	See complaints policy

