

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

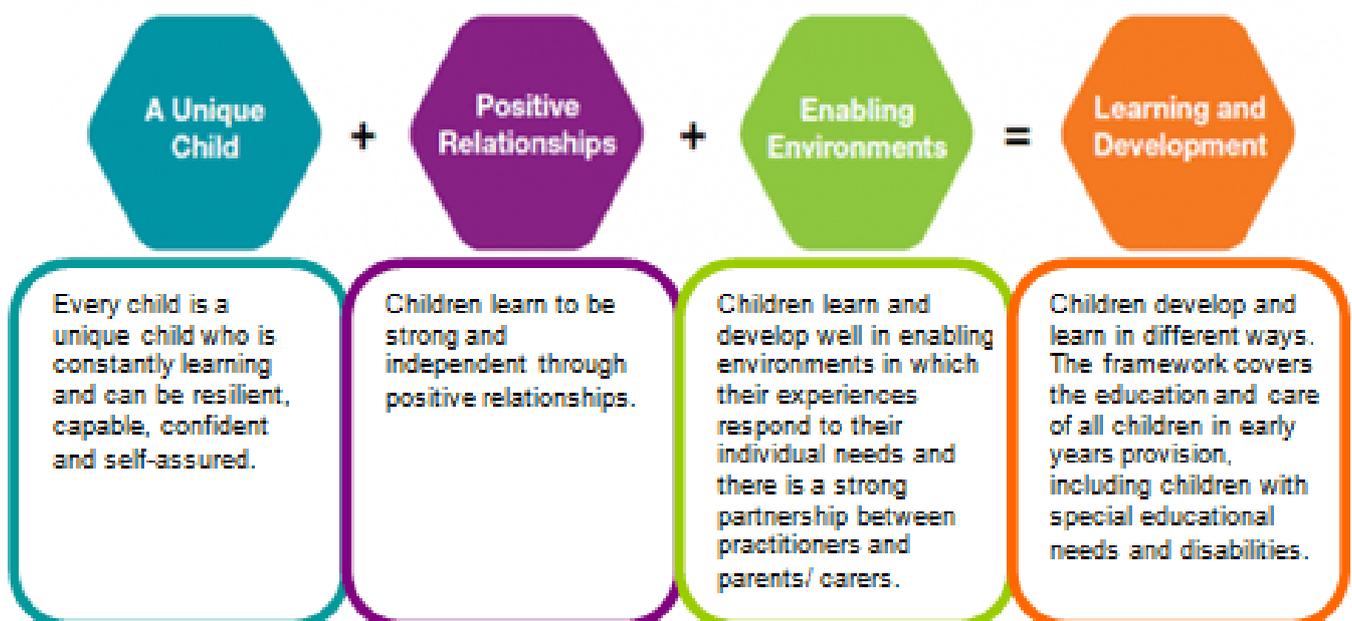


The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old. All schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers must follow the EYFS, including childminders, preschools, nurseries and school reception classes.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework supports an integrated approach to early learning and care. It gives all professionals a set of common principles and commitments to deliver quality early education and childcare experiences to all children.

As well as being the core document for all professionals working in the foundation years, the EYFS framework gives parents and carers confidence that regardless of where they choose for their child's early education, they can be assured that the same statutory commitments and principles will underpin their child's learning and development experience

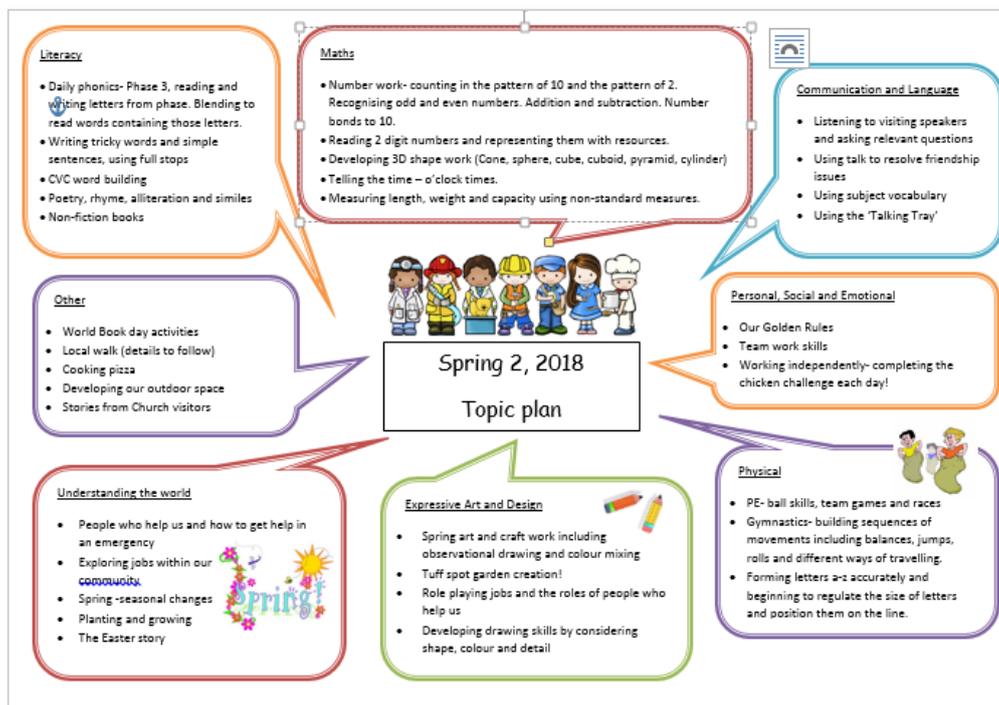
The EYFS is based on 4 overarching principles which shape good practice in early years settings:-



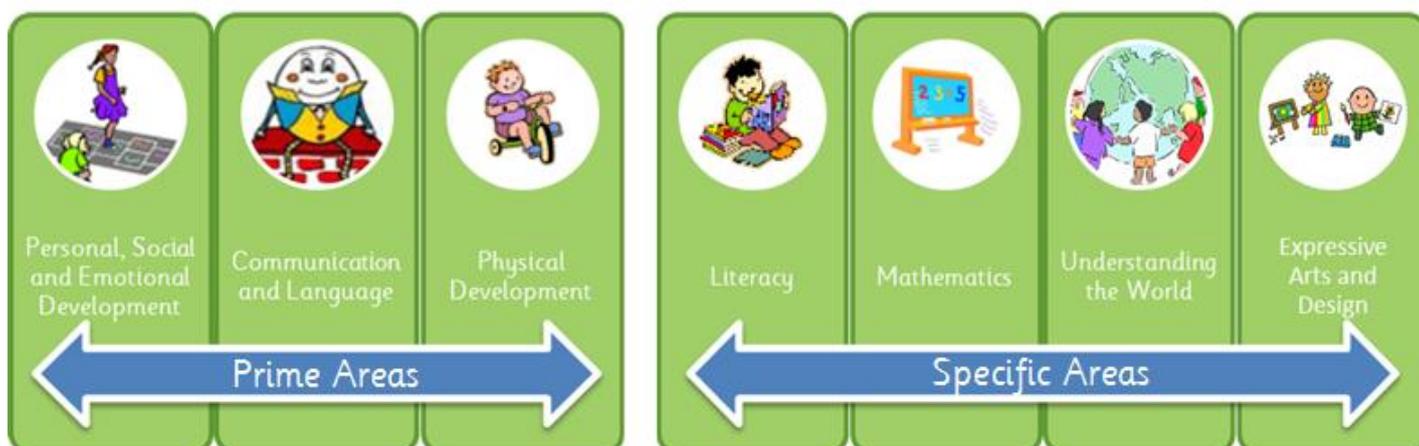
So what does this mean for you and your child at Rushwick School?

The EYFS supports practitioners to provide play experiences that enable your child to expand their knowledge and skills to support their individual learning and development in their early years. At Rushwick School, we recognise your child's strengths and the areas in which they may need additional support, and provide learning opportunities to meet their needs.

It is important for your child to settle quickly and feel secure at school, we aid this by planning transition opportunities, communicating with nurseries and preschools and by our staff making a commitment to getting to know you and your child well. We aim to build a strong and interactive relationship with you and your child as we know that working in partnership provides the best outcomes. We give details of our planning to parents / carers so that they know what we are covering and can support their child at home.



The activities and experiences that we provide for your child at Rushwick School will underpin the skills they need to work towards the Early Learning Goals in the following 7 areas -



Our staff: Mrs Ballinger, Mrs Ansell and Mrs Edmondson are all experienced at working with early years children and are aware of the need to observe children to know where they are within the Prime and Specific areas. Our staff are able to provide opportunities that stimulate and nurture interest and help children to take the next steps in their learning. They are also skilled at supporting children to develop independence. Our staff are kind and nurturing and enjoy working within early years.



Your child will have an individual Maths and Literacy book to support learning in these areas as well as an individual folder where we record observations, photos and other evidence. The folder is an on-going record of your child's development across all areas of learning. We value contributions from parents / carers to these folders and provide opportunities throughout the year for parents to add to them.

We provide detailed pupil progress information to parents / carers during parent's evenings and through the end of year report. We report on the Prime and Specific areas of learning as well as the Characteristics of Effective Learning.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

<p style="text-align: center;">Engagement</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Playing and Exploring</p> <p>Finding out and exploring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing curiosity about objects, events and people • Using senses to explore the world around them • Engaging in open-ended activity • Showing particular interests <p>Playing with what they know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pretending objects are things from their experience • Representing their experiences in play • Taking on a role in their play • Acting out experiences with other people <p>Being willing to 'have a go'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiating activities • Seeking challenge • Showing a 'can do' attitude • Taking a risk, engaging in new experiences, and learning by trial and error 	<p style="text-align: center;">Motivation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Active Learning</p> <p>Being involved and concentrating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining focus on their activity for a period of time • Showing high levels of energy, fascination • Not easily distracted • Paying attention to details <p>Keeping on trying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persisting with activity when challenges occur • Showing a belief that more effort or a different approach will pay off • Bouncing back after difficulties <p>Enjoying achieving what they set out to do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showing satisfaction in meeting their own goals • Being proud of how they accomplished something – not just the end result • Enjoying meeting challenges for their own sake rather than external rewards or praise 	<p style="text-align: center;">Thinking</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Creative and Critical Thinking</p> <p>Having their own ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking of ideas • Finding ways to solve problems • Finding new ways to do things <p>Making links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making links and noticing patterns in their experience • Making predictions • Testing their ideas • Developing ideas of grouping, sequences, cause and effect <p>Choosing ways to do things</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, making decisions about how to approach a task, solve a problem and reach a goal • Checking how well their activities are going • Changing strategy as needed • Reviewing how well the approach worked
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If you have any questions about early education or the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) please talk to Mrs Ballinger who will be able to offer further information.

You can read our Early Years policy on our website.