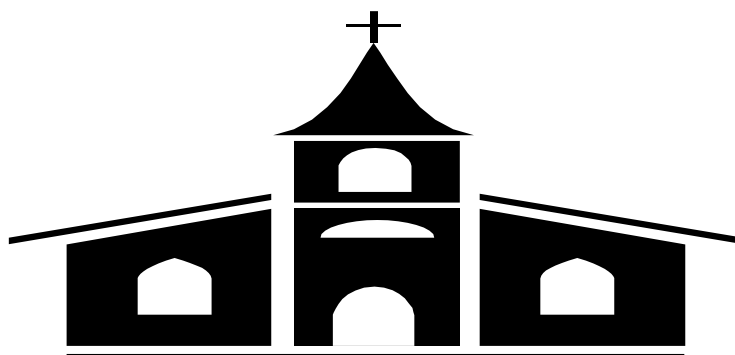




Coatham CE Primary School

EYFS Policy



COATHAM CE PRIMARY SCHOOL



“Learn not for school, but for life”

We are a supportive church school community where every individual is accepted, their interests encouraged, and where everyone is supported to learn to believe in themselves. Through varied and creative learning experiences, we want our children to be successful and resilient, now and in their future, both in this unique community and further afield.

Our Christian values of Friendship, Respect and Fairness run through all of our teaching and learning and help us to understand that we can all make a positive difference to our world, as we love our neighbours as ourselves (Matthew 22:39).

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Policy

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) applies to children from birth to the end of the Reception year. At Coatham School, children join the Foundation Stage in the year that they turn three. In partnership with parents and carers we enable the children to begin the process of becoming active learners for life.

Intent

In our EYFS our aim is to provide a welcoming environment that is designed to meet the needs of all of our children taking into consideration their varied starting points. A thorough on-entry report is completed by experienced staff on all children starting our setting over the first two weeks. Assessments are then made based on information gathered, including that from previous settings and parents, that give us a solid starting point for each child. Well thought out and planned continuous provision both inside and outdoors allows the children to make good progress and provides skills for school and life whilst taking in their own interests. During their time in EYFS children are given the opportunity to experience trips and visitors that provide knowledge of the local area and the wider world.

We endeavour to work in partnership with parents and carers and other settings to encourage independent happy learners who thrive in school and reach true potential from their starting points.

The EYFS is based upon four principles:

- A unique child – developing resilient, capable, confident and self-assured individuals.
- Positive relationships – supporting the children in becoming strong and independent.
- Enabling environments – where opportunities and experiences respond to the individual needs of the child by developing a strong partnership between practitioners, parents/carers and the child.
- Learning and developing – An acknowledgement that children learn in different ways and at different rates.

A Unique Child

We recognise that every child is a competent learner who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured. We recognise that children develop in individual ways, at varying rates. Children's attitudes and dispositions to learning are influenced by feedback from others; we use praise and encouragement, as well as celebration/sharing assemblies and rewards, to encourage children to develop a positive attitude to learning.

Inclusion/Special Educational Needs (SEN)

All children and their families are valued at Coatham School. Children are treated as individuals and have equal access to all provisions available. All children are encouraged to achieve their personal best and planning is adapted to meet the needs of all groups and abilities. Assessments take into account contributions from a range of perspectives to ensure that any child with potential special educational needs is identified at the earliest possible opportunity. Early identification of special needs is crucial to enable staff to support the development of each child. Concerns are always discussed with parents/carers at an early stage.

We meet the needs of all our children through:

- Planning opportunities that build upon and extend children's knowledge, experience and interests, and develop their self-esteem and confidence;
- Using a wide range of teaching strategies based on children's learning needs;
- Providing a wide range of opportunities to motivate and support children and to help them to learn effectively;
- Providing a safe and supportive learning environment in which the contribution of all children is valued;
- Using resources which reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping;
- Planning challenging activities for children whose ability and understanding are in advance of their language and communication skills;
- Monitoring children's progress and taking action to provide support as necessary and enable choice and decision-making, fostering independent and self-confidence.

Welfare

It is important to us that all children in our 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. 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 our children.

"Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them."

At Coatham School we understand that we are legally required to comply with certain welfare requirements as stated in the Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage. We understand that we are required to:

- promote the welfare and safeguarding of children.
- promote good health and oral hygiene, preventing the spread of infection and taking appropriate action when children are ill.

- manage behaviour effectively in a manner appropriate for the children's stage of development and individual needs.
- ensure all adults who look after the children or who have unsupervised access to them are suitable to do so.
- ensure that the premises, furniture and equipment is safe and suitable for purpose
- ensure that every child receives enjoyable and challenging learning and development experiences tailored to meet their needs.
- maintain records, policies and procedures required for safe efficient management of the setting and to meet the needs of the children.

Positive Relationships

At Coatham School we recognise that children learn to be strong and independent from secure relationships. We aim to develop caring, respectful, professional relationships with the children and their families.

Parents as Partners

We recognise that parents are children's first and most enduring educators and we value the contribution they make. We recognise the role that parents have played, and their future role, in educating the children. We do this through:

- An information meeting for parents where they receive the School Prospectus which highlights school start and finish times, uniform and informs the parents of the school's vision and aims.
- An opportunity to talk to the Reception team and representatives from other areas of school life, e.g. Parents Group, Catering Staff, School Nurse, Education Welfare and the Breakfast Club.
- Asking parents to complete an admissions form and a medical form.
- Asking parents to sign permission slips for visits out of school, photographs of their child for assessment purposes and using the internet at school.
- Encouraging parents to talk to their child's teacher if there are concerns.
- Talking to parents about their child before their child starts in our school, usually through visits to Nursery.
- Ensuring children have the opportunity to spend time with their teacher before starting school during Nursery visits and transition week.
- There is a formal meeting for parents three times a year at which the teacher and the parent discuss the child's progress in private with the teacher. Parents receive a report on their child's attainment and progress at the end of each school year.
- Organising a range of activities throughout the year that encourage collaboration between child, school and parents / carers: Open afternoons, Craft mornings and Sports Day etc;
- Newsletters are sent out every half term to inform parents about the topic children will be working on.

All staff involved with the EYFS aim to develop good relationships with all children, interacting positively with them and taking time to listen to them. At our school, the EYFS teachers act as 'Key Person' to all children in EYFS, supported by the other practitioners.

Enabling Environments

We aim to create an attractive and stimulating learning environment where children feel confident and secure and challenged. The children have daily access to an indoor and outdoor environment that is set up in discrete areas of learning with planned continuous provision.

Effective learning builds and extends upon prior learning and following children's interest. Effective planning is informed by observations of the children to ensure we follow their current interests and experiences. These observations are recorded on Evidence Me by 2Simple.

Play based learning is paramount and children direct their own learning from carefully planned opportunities provided by staff. Staff will enhance play and extend as needed to further individual learning.

Learning and Development

There are seven areas of learning and development of which three are "prime areas," and four "specific areas."

The prime areas are

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

The specific areas are

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

Through careful assessments and observations, including information provided by parents and other settings, children's development levels are assessed. The balance will shift towards a more equal focus on all areas of learning as children grow in confidence and ability within the three prime areas.

At Coatham School: Each area of learning and development is implemented through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of adult-led and child-initiated activity. Play is used as an essential part children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults. There is an

on-going judgement to be made by practitioners about the balance between activities led by children, and activities led or guided by adults. Practitioners must respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interaction. As children grow older, and as their development allows, it is expected that the balance will gradually shift towards more activities led by adults, to help children prepare for more formal learning, ready for Year 1."

Planning and guided children's activities will reflect on the different ways that children learn and reflect these in their practice. At Coatham we support children in using the three characteristics of effective teaching and learning. 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 achievements; and
- **Creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

Religious Education and RSHE are also taught in the Foundation Stage following SEAL guidelines and the Redcar and Cleveland agreed syllabus for Religious Education. Opportunities are highlighted on Medium term planning.

Equal Opportunities

All members of the school are treated as individuals. We aim to meet the needs of all, taking account of gender, ability, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, special educational needs, disability, and social circumstances. All staff are aware of the need for the curriculum to reflect cultural diversity and the need to prepare pupils for life in a diverse and multi-faith society.

Health and Safety

At Coatham School there are clear procedures for assessing risk which includes procedures for keeping children safe during outings and for any aspects of the environment or provision that may require a further risk assessment.

In line with the EYFS statutory framework 2025, at Coatham School we undertake;

- A whole school medicines policy ensuring that there are systems in place to ensure that medicines and the systems for obtaining information about a child's needs for medication are kept up to date. Medicines will not be administered unless they have been prescribed by a doctor. Medicines (both prescription and non-prescription) are only administered to a child where written permission for that particular medicine has been obtained from the child's parent and/or carer.

- Fresh drinking water is available at all times.
- Children's dietary needs are recorded and acted upon when required.

- Milk is available during the Nursery session and for those children in Reception who are under 5. Fruit is available to all Foundation Stage children. Children are supervised and monitored whilst eating snack/
- All staff are Paediatric First Aid trained. A first aider is accessible at all times and a record of accidents and injuries is kept.
- A fire and emergency evacuation procedure and policy
- A safeguarding policy stating how mobile phones and cameras are to be used and stored securely whilst children are in the setting. Cameras that are used in school must not be used for staff own personal use.

The Learning Environment

The EYFS classroom is organised to allow children to explore and learn securely and safely. There are areas where the children can be active or take things more quietly. The classroom covers all learning areas, where children are able to find and located equipment and resources independently. The EYFS has its own large enclosed outdoor area. This has a positive effect on the children's development. Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors. It offers the children the ability to explore, use their senses and be physically active and exuberant. We plan activities and resources for the children to access outdoors that help the children to develop in all areas of learning.

Fundamental British Values in the Early Years Fundamental British values are embedded within our everyday practice in EYFS, through our daily routines and planned purposeful play activities.

Transition From Nursery to Reception

During the summer term prior to a child's entry into the Reception year, the following procedures have been put into place to ensure successful transition

- Parents are invited to a meeting to ensure they know about school procedures and allocation of classes and any concerns they may want to express.
- Children move into the Reception Class for one week to work alongside staff.
- Children are invited to stay for a school lunch alongside parents and then independently, assisted by Foundation Stage staff during transition week.

From Reception Class to Key Stage 1

Our Reception and Y1 teams work closely together. A transition week is held for all of the children to experience Year 1. There are meetings between the teams to share information on learning needs for all of the children, and for children on the SEND register. This informs the dialogue between Reception and Year 1 teachers about each child's stage of development and learning needs and assists with the planning of activities in Year 1.