

Grove Primary

Early Years Foundation Stage Policy and information for parents.



Grove School

Our Mission Statement:



“Enjoy, Learn, Achieve”

Welcome to Grove School

On behalf of all the children, parents and staff at Grove we would like to welcome you and your child to our Early Years Foundation Stage department.

We aim for all our children to have a happy and enjoyable start to their education in order to build successful foundations for learning and wish to involve you, as parents, in this process throughout their journey.

This policy has been designed to provide you with information about Grove Early Years Foundation Stage department to answer any queries you may have and provide you with a good insight into what and how your child will be learning.

We hope that this will be the start of a long, happy and successful journey of education for your child.

Our Expectations

At Grove we have developed in consultation with children, parents and staff, a set of expectations which we continually refer to and return to as a school community. Our expectations are the foundation of all we do and say:

- Are good listeners and thoughtful speakers
- Are honest and tell the truth
- Are kind and don't hurt others or their feelings
- Are supportive of others
- Always try to do our best
- Always treat others as we would like to be treated



Settling In

Starting at Grove will be a big step for most children and the time we spend settling them in will lead to happier, more confident children who enjoy school and are eager to learn. You will be invited to an induction session with your child. During this induction visit we will ask you some questions about your child, their likes and dislikes, their health and development. This information will help us to settle your child in.

For our nursery children:

Your child will be invited to attend their first nursery sessions with you to help them settle. You will be asked to stay with your child for the first hour for each session. Once your child is settled and is willing to part from you, staff will talk to you about establishing regular nursery hours.

For our reception children:

Many of our reception pupils attended nursery, some pupils are new to reception. For your child's first two weeks of school, they will attend for *either* five morning sessions *or* five afternoon sessions. There will not be a school lunch in the two weeks. The third week they will attend full time and enjoy a school lunch. You will receive a letter to confirm this. This will help your child to settle. Some children may take a little longer and remain part-time until they have settled. Staff will talk to you if this is the case. We want to be sure that your child is happy and confident in their new surroundings and eager to meet the exciting learning opportunities available at Grove.



We recognise that for some pupils nursery and reception this may be the first time they have been into a school/nursery setting and have left their parents. We may ask some parents to help settle their child. We require parents who stay in the nursery or reception classes to wear a red lanyard so that all staff know they are parents and cannot be left with pupils in the setting. In nursery some pupils require support with changing and toileting. Parents will only enter the nursery toilet when other pupils are not in the nursery toilets and when a member of the nursery team has checked the toilets.

Our vision for your child

At Grove we recognise that high quality education makes life-long, positive difference to children. We aim to provide

- an Early Years Foundation Stage environment which is play based and takes place both indoors and outdoors
- high quality provision where children learning through exploratory play and problem-solving activities
- high quality provision based on child interest
- learning that challenges children and encourages exploration, inquiry and imagination



What will my child be learning?

Children in the early years department follow a broad and balanced curriculum called **The Early Years Foundation Stage**. 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 activities. The professionals teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. It is 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.

Special Educational Needs

We recognise some pupils may need more support to develop and make progress.

We have two SENCOs at Grove: Miss C Dowell and Mrs A Bennett.

More information about how we help and support pupils with additional needs can be found in our Special Educational Needs Policy and School SEN Information

Please click here for details on our [local offer](#) and here for our [Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy](#)

To access our SEND page please [click here](#)

To view the results of our SEND parental survey please [click here](#)

Assessment in Early Years Foundation Stage at Grove School.

Our aim is that careful planning takes into account each child's individual interests and needs, informed by sensitive listening, observations and reflection by skilled staff. Staff (teachers and teaching assistants) will support child-initiated and spontaneous play exceptionally well, and because they know children's interests and needs' they are able to ensure that all are challenged and helped to make outstanding progress.

Arrangements for tracking and monitoring the individual progress of children will feed into termly assessments of what children know, can do and understand. Where children may be struggling with a particular aspect, small focus groups or 1-1 sessions are planned to ensure that children do not fall behind in key areas.

All practitioners are clear who the focus children for observation are that week. In preparation for this, they will have evaluated the children's learning journeys. Identifying how targets will be achieved in the planning, also checking that speech is a key area of focus for all children.

Staff are actively encouraged to be reflective practitioners and are constantly looking at how they can improve their practice. In weekly staff meetings, staff are encouraged to unpick each of the areas of learning as a team and look at good practice in relation to teaching. They always ask themselves how could they have done it differently?

Teachers will complete the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) with all reception pupils in the first six weeks in which a child starts school. In the final term of the year in which every child reaches the age of 5 the EYFS profile is completed for every reception pupils. This profile is used to let parents know what their child understands, their abilities, their attainment against expected levels and their readiness for Year 1. Parents receive this information in an end of year written report.

Ways you can help.

Children at Grove follow the 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' synthetic phonics programme to learn their letters and sounds and begin to read. Watch the Little Wandle video on our website to help you to support your child to learn their sounds.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk>

Support your child by reading their reading book with them. Each child has access to books that match their class reading book. Each child also has access to a weekly sharing library held on a Thursday. You are encouraged to visit the sharing library with your child. Share picture and story books each day with your child. Bedtime provides a great opportunity to develop their love of reading story and picture books.

Encourage your child to recognise and write their own name, avoid using capitals with the exception of the first letter.

Mathematics- Children at Grove follow the White Rose Maths Hub to support their mathematical development. You can access maths ideas and home learning resources to enable you to support your child.

<https://whiteroseeducation.com>

Also, encourage your child to count objects around the home. Count one object and say one number at a time as this is the way children learn their numbers.

Social skills – encourage your child to use the toilet and try to toilet train them before they start at Grove. Encourage your child to wash their hands, put on their coat and attempt to do it up.

Top Tips.

Here are some top tips to help when your child starts at Grove

- Write their name clearly in all their belongings including their coat and bag.
- Bring your child and collect them on time, this establishes a positive school routine.
- Provide a named water bottle
- Read with your child every day
- Help your child to recognise and put on their own coat
- Help your child to recognise their name, written in lower case letters with the exception of the first capital.

We offer parents many opportunities to join their child in class to find out how we teach and how children learn. You will be invited to attend parent workshops throughout the year.



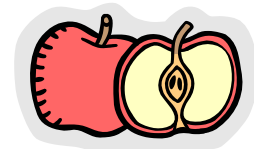
Snacks and lunchtime:

At Grove we provide all children with a piece of fruit every day to encourage healthy eating habits. Children do not need to bring additional food to school. Children are not allowed to bring fizzy drinks or milkshakes to school; they have access to water. Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle with their name on which they will take home at the end of each day. We encourage children to join their teacher, in small groups, to share fruit and milk.

Parents have the option of staying at school for a school dinner or providing a healthy packed lunch.

From September 2014 children who are in reception, year 1 and year 2 in a state-funded school were offered a free healthy school lunch. Schools ask parents to complete an Early Years Pupil Premium form. By registering for free meals every school could raise an extra £1,385 for school to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities.

Your child will have a named lunchtime supervisor for the lunchtime period who will oversee their care, play and safety. The lunchtime supervisor will communicate with the class teacher at the beginning and end of the lunchtime sessions. Once in the dining hall our catering team, supported by Grove staff, ensures children select and eat a balanced meal. After dinner children will have access to the foundation stage outdoor learning environment for play, relaxation and learning during the lunchtime period.



Attendance and time keeping

Attendance and good time keeping is very important at Grove. We expect the children to have 100% attendance and they should arrive in school for their session times. Your child will have the opportunity of winning attendance awards throughout the year for good attendance and time keeping.



Arriving on time for school every day is really important. We open the school gates at 8.30am. The register is taken at 8.45am. Learning starts straight away. If your child is late in nursery they will miss the time to talk to friends, find their name and settle for the session. If your child is late in reception they miss their phonics lesson. Phonics is essential for all pupils to be fluent readers.

We monitor attendance and punctuality closely. Your child's teacher will ask to speak with you they note poor attendance and punctuality. As a school we do not give permission for pupils to be taken out of school in term time. Medical appointments should, where possible, be made out of school time.

More information about attendance can be found on the school website:

<https://web.grove.bham.sch.uk/attendance-and-punctuality>

The school day

Nursery:

Part-time children attend Grove nursery for 15 hours per week.

Monday and Tuesday 8:30am -3:30pm, Wednesday 8:30am-11:30am.

Or

Wednesday 12:30pm- 3:30pm, Thursday and Friday 8:30am-3:30pm

The lunchtime period is from 11.30am to 12.30pm.

Nursery parents are invited to collect their children from the nursery classrooms situated off the small hall.

Reception:

The school doors open at 8.30am. All children should be in their classroom by 8.45am for registration.

The lunchtime period is from 11.30am to 12.30pm.

School finishes at 3.15pm we invite all parents to collect their child from the classroom.

We request that all children are collected from class by a named adult (older than 16) and not a brother or sister at Grove.



School Uniform

All children in school are required to wear school uniform.

For Girls: A grey pinafore, skirt or trousers with a white blouse, green sweatshirt and black shoes.

For Boys: Grey trousers, white shirt, green sweatshirt and black shoes.

There are many local shops which sell a wide range of uniform. Shoes should be hardwearing. Open-toed shoes or heeled shoes are unsafe in school and are not allowed. For safety reasons, children should only wear stud earrings.

Socks should be plain grey/green, or black.

Headscarves should be green, black or white. Headscarves should not have patterns or sequins on, they should be plain.

We do not accept children having lines or patterns cut into their hair.

Medical Concerns

Your child's health is our priority at Grove. During the induction meeting parents are asked to share any medical concerns or conditions your child may have. This includes allergies and food preferences, for example vegetarian or halal. We have a school nurse who works with parents and teachers to write medical care plans tailored to your child's medical needs. This ensures that safe care is provided.

We recognise that pupils may be at different development points with their self care and toileting. We have an Intimate Care Plan Policy. This can be found on the school website:

<https://web.grove.bham.sch.uk/school-policies>

The following teachers have a current paediatric first aid certificate:

Mrs C Willoughby – Assistant Head Teacher, EYFS

Mrs S Khan – teacher

Miss S Bell – teacher

Safeguarding and Child Protection

We know children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met and when they have positive relationships with adults.

At Grove we have a number of Designated Senior Leads for Child Protection.

Mrs Willoughby, Assistant Head Teacher for EYFS, is a DSL.

Our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy can be found on the school website:

<https://web.grove.bham.sch.uk/media/upload/files/Safeguarding-Policy---September-2023-%281%29.pdf>

Complaints

If you have a query, question or concern please do speak with your child's teacher at the end of the school day when you collect your child. If you need to communicate information about your child in the morning, please let an administrator know when you drop off your child at the school gate. We also have parental enquiry forms if you wish to record a question/query in writing.

The school has a complaints policy. This can be found at:

<https://web.grove.bham.sch.uk/school-policies>

It is called ' Complaints Procedures'

This policy has been written and updated using the following document:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1170108/EYFS_framework_from_September_2023.pdf

