

The Cornwall Independent School

EYFS Policy

This policy applies to all children and staff in the Reception Class at The Cornwall Independent School.

This policy is based on the Department for Education (DfE) *Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage* (2021). Other key statutory background and guidance includes: the *Childcare Act* (2006), the *Equality Act* (2010), the *Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice, 0-25 years 2014* (SEND Code 2015), and *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (September 2024) (KCSIE).

This policy links to a number of the school's other policies, including: Child Protection Policy; Staff Code of Conduct; Safe Recruitment of Staff Policy; Supervision of Staff Policy; Supervision of Children Policy; Missing or Lost Child Policy; Children Missing Education Policy; Late Collection and Non-Collection Policy; First Aid Policy; Medication Policy; Health and Safety Policy; Curriculum Policy; Behaviour Policy; Special Educational Needs Policy; English as an Additional Language Policy; and the Parents Complaints Procedure.

Monitoring and Review: These arrangements are subject to continuous monitoring, refinement, and audit by the Headteacher. The Proprietor and Advisory Board will undertake a full annual review of this document, inclusive of its implementation and the efficiency with which the related duties have been implemented. This review will be formally documented in writing. Any deficiencies or weaknesses recognised in arrangements or procedures will be remedied immediately and without delay. All staff will be informed of the updated/reviewed arrangements, and it will be made available to them in writing or electronically.

Signed:

Reviewed: September 2025

Next Review: September 2026



Miss Louise Adams
Headteacher



Mr Stephen Beck
Chair of the Advisory Board

Mr. Bill Brown
Education and Compliance Adviser

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **everyone's** responsibility. **Everyone** who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all practitioners should make sure their approach is child centred. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the **best interests** of the child.

Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2022)

If you have any concerns related to the welfare or safety of a child, including online-safety and safeguarding (sometimes known as 'e-safeguarding') please contact the Designated Person and safeguarding lead without delay. The school's Designated Person and safeguarding lead is Mrs Clare Hawkins DDSL Mis Jayne Chapman.

Please see the Child Protection Policy for further information about safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

Reception at The Cornwall Independent School

The Reception Class form the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at The Cornwall Independent School. The class is an essential part of the school, setting the standards for early learning. The Reception Class at The Cornwall Independent School is built on the standards set by the DfE's *Statutory framework for the early year's foundation stage* (EYFS Framework 2021) which includes the *learning and development requirements* and the *safeguarding and welfare requirements*. The EYFS Framework ensures that:

"Children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life."

Statutory framework for the early year's foundation stage (2021)

At The Cornwall Independent School we believe that:

"Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. [...] A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high-quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up."

Statutory framework for the early year's foundation stage (2021)

Practice in the Reception Class at The Cornwall Independent School is shaped by the four overarching principles of the EYFS Framework (DfE, 2017). These are:

- Every child is a **unique child**, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self- assured;
- Children learn to be strong and independent through **positive relationships**;
- Children learn and develop well in **enabling environments**, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers;
- **importance of learning and development. Children develop and learn at different rates.** The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Our aim is to ensure that children feel happy, safe and confident in the environment, so they are able to thrive and succeed in their learning and all that they do at The Cornwall Independent School. For further information in support of the above, please see the school's:

- Home School Agreement;
- Inclusion and Equality Policy
- Special Educational Needs Policy.

The EYFS Framework learning and development requirements cover:

- The **areas of learning and development** which must shape activities and experiences (**educational programmes**) for children in all early years settings;
- The **early learning goals** that providers must help children to work towards (the knowledge, skills and understanding children should have at the end of the academic year in which they turn five);

Assessment arrangements for measuring progress (and requirements for reporting to parents and/or carers).

The Reception Class curriculum at The Cornwall Independent School reflects the seven areas of learning and development, the early learning goals, and the assessment required to measure each child's achievement and individual progress. The experiences that our children meet often enable them to develop a number of competencies, skills and concepts across several areas of learning simultaneously, reflecting the interconnected nature of these areas. The seven areas of learning and development, and the associated early learning goals, are categorised as follows in Table 1:

Table 1: Areas of Learning and Development and the Early Learning Goals

Area of Learning and Development	Early Learning Goal
Prime Area	
<i>Communication and Language</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening and attention and understanding; • Speaking
<i>Physical Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross Motor Skills; • Fine Motor Skills.
<i>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-regulation; • Managing self; • Building relationships.
Specific Area	
<i>Literacy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehension; • Word Reading; • Writing.
<i>Mathematics</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers; • Numerical Patterns.
<i>Understanding the World</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past and Present; • People, Culture and Communities; • The Natural World
<i>Expressive Arts and Design</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating with Materials; • Being Imaginative and Expressive.

At The Cornwall Independent School all Reception practitioners aim to promote a learning environment that matches the individual needs of children. Practitioners observe, assess and plan to ensure all teaching is challenging and playful across the prime and specific areas of development. Children will be encouraged to become effective, motivated and independent learners. The class teacher recognises that each child is an individual, therefore the development statements should not be taken as necessary steps and should not be used as direct checklists. The age bands as they are, are not fixed age boundaries, however they do suggest a typical range of learning from ‘Children in Reception’.

The planning is topic based in Reception but has the freedom to run alongside the children’s interests in order to offer a unique approach to the children. In Reception, children’s learning is taught and assessed using the EYFS Framework and Developmental Matters handbook. Children’s learning is observed by ongoing formative assessment. From these observations the teachers are able to see the children’s interests and can monitor their learning based on both process and outcome. This information feeds forward into planning, creating a circular approach to education and allows teachers to record meaningful learning opportunities.

The EYFS Profile

The EYFS Profile (EYFSP) summarises and describes each child’s attainment at the end of the EYFS. It is based on on-going assessment in the 3 prime and 4 specific areas of learning, and provides parents and carers, EYFS practitioners and the Year 1 teacher with a picture of the child’s knowledge, understanding and abilities, progress against expected levels, and their ‘school readiness’ for Year 1.

Each child’s level of development is assessed against the 17 early learning goals (see Table 1, above) along with a short commentary on each child’s skills and abilities in relation to the 3 key characteristics of effective learning (playing and exploring, active learning, creating and thinking critically).

For each early learning goal, EYFS practitioners judge whether a child is meeting the level of development expected at the end of Reception ('expected') or not yet reaching it ('emerging'). This will support future curriculum planning and provide the Year 1 teacher with important information about each child's approach to learning, stage of development and learning needs to assist with planning activities. Parents receive regular updates on their child's achievements through parents' meetings, home communication books, Tapestry, Frog our learning platform and an end of year report which shares the EYFS levels and general feedback relating to each area of learning.

Role of Class Teacher and Teaching Styles

Features of effective teaching and learning at The Cornwall Independent School include, the:

- Partnership between teachers and parents, so that our children feel secure at school and develop a sense of well-being and achievement;
- Understanding that teachers have of how children develop and learn, and how this affects their teaching
- Range of approaches used that provide first-hand experiences, give clear explanations, make appropriate interventions and extend and develop play and talk or other means of communication
- Carefully planned curriculum that helps children achieve the early learning goals by the end of their Reception year
- Provision for children to take part in activities that build on and extend their interests and develop their intellectual, physical, social and emotional skills and abilities
- Encouragement for children to communicate and talk about their learning, and to develop independence
- Support for learning with appropriate and accessible indoor and outdoor space, facilities and equipment
- Play based learning to support all areas of learning and development in the EYFS
- Identification of the progress and future learning needs of children through observations, which are regularly shared with parents
- Clear aims for the work undertaken, and the regular monitoring to evaluate and improve where necessary.

Play in the Reception Class

Play is an 'essential part for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about independently, problem solve and relate to others' (DfE, 2021). 'Playing and exploring' is one of the 3 characteristics of effective learning in the EYFS (see EYFS Profile, above), and each of the seven areas of learning and development are implemented through planned, purposeful play and a mixture of adult-led and child-initiated activities.

Playing and exploring allows children to investigate and experience things, and 'have a go' (DfE, 2021), helping children make sense of the world. For example, playing co-operatively and learning to take turns with others is fundamental to how children learn to make relationships, one of the early learning goals associated with children's personal, social and emotional development. Through play, EYFS children practise skills and build up ideas, develop their independence and resilience, as well as developing social skills enabling them to make friendships. They have the opportunity to think, imagine and express themselves creatively alongside other pupils from the whole school community, as well as independently. They learn to communicate with others as they investigate and solve problems through play, learn to manage their feelings and behaviour, and form positive relationships with children and adults alike.

Inclusion in the Reception Class

The Cornwall Independent School takes great care to treat each individual as a person in their own right, with equal rights and responsibilities to any other individual, whether they are an adult or a child. The school is committed to providing equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice for all children and families according to their individual needs.

Discrimination on the grounds of age, sex, special educational need, disability, race, religion or belief, marriage or civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, sex, sexual orientation, ethnic or national origin, or political belief has no place within this school. We give our pupils every opportunity to achieve their best. We do this by taking into consideration our pupil's range of life experiences and cultural backgrounds when planning for their learning.

We meet the needs of all children by:

- Keeping class sizes at a maximum of 12 pupils to enable maximum attention for each child, and greater participation;
- 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 differentiated learning needs;
- Providing a wide range of opportunities to motivate and support pupils and to help them to learn effectively;
- Providing a stimulating classroom environment;
- Planning challenging and stimulating activities for pupils 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
- Providing opportunities for children to develop a sound homework ethic from the age of 4 onwards. From the outset, we look for parental involvement in further developing their child's learning.

Practice is shaped by the EYFS Framework's four guiding principles (above). In keeping with the EYFS Framework (DfE, 2021), the school strives to provide:

- **Quality and consistency** in the Reception Class, so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind;
- **A secure foundation** through learning and development opportunities which are planned around the needs and interests of each individual child and are assessed and reviewed regularly;
- **Partnership working** between practitioners and with parents and/or carers;
- **Equality of opportunity** and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported.

Early learning opportunities offered in the school encourage children to develop positive attitudes to people who are different from them. It encourages children to empathise with others and to begin to develop the skills of critical thinking.

We do this by:

- Making children feel valued and good about themselves;
- Ensuring that all children have equal access to early learning and play opportunities;
- Reflecting the widest possible range of communities in the choice of resources;
- Avoiding stereotypical or derogatory images in the selection of materials;
- Acknowledging and celebrating a wide range of religions, beliefs and festivals;
- Creating an environment of mutual respect and empathy;
- Helping children to understand that discriminatory behaviour and remarks are unacceptable;
- Ensuring that all early learning opportunities offered are inclusive of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and children from disadvantaged backgrounds;
- Encouraging children to understand and display British Values;
- Ensuring that children whose first language is not English have full access to the early learning opportunities and are supported in their learning.

Achieving Continence

It is preferable and highly encouraged that your child's toilet training is complete before they start in Reception at The Cornwall Independent School. If your child's toilet training is not complete it is essential that you discuss this with your child's key person (class teacher) before your child starts attending so that an intimate or personal care procedure for supporting your child can be discussed.

The Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO) for the EYFS is Mrs Clare Hawkins

Please see the Inclusion and Equality Policy, the Special Educational Needs Policy, the English as an Additional Language Policy,

and the Behaviour Policy for further information.

Reception Involvement in School Life

At The Cornwall Independent School we offer a range of extra-curricular clubs each term. From the summer term Reception parents are invited to choose from a range of clubs that best suit their child's interests. The Cornwall Independent School will also host and arrange whole school events such as sports days, class assemblies, charity events, fairs and school performances to which all children and their parents/careers will be invited to take part.

The role of parents as partners

The Cornwall Independent School believes in a strong partnership between parents and school staff. We believe that all parents have an essential role to play in the education of their child. We recognise the need for them to support their child and the school in order to aid the learning and development, as well as safeguarding and welfare, of every child in the school community. This is achieved as follows:

- Meeting with parents about their child before they attend school
- Children have the opportunity to spend time with their prospective teacher in the Reception setting before starting at The Cornwall Independent School by attending 'transition days'
- Our reception teacher contacts the child's current nursery and visits the child during one of their sessions.
- Inviting all Reception parents to attend the New Parents meeting before their child starts school
- Offering parents regular opportunities to talk about their child's progress in our Reception through daily communication and encouraging parents to talk to their child's teacher if there are any concerns. The school has an open-door policy, and teachers are available to talk to parents outside of the formal parents' evenings allocated by the school
- Formal Parents' Evenings take place twice yearly and provide an opportunity for the teacher and parents to discuss the child's progress. Parents are prompted to sign up to the individual meeting timeslots in advance of each Parents' Evening. Parents also receive a written report on their child's attainment and progress yearly;
- Parents helping and supporting their child with homework which mirrors the child's learning at school this can be shared through Tapestry.

The safeguarding and welfare requirements

The Reception at The Cornwall Independent School follows the standards set by the EYFS Framework to keep children safe and promote their welfare. The EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements are met through the school's Child Protection Policy.

If you have any concerns related to the welfare or safety of a child, including online-safety and safeguarding (sometimes known as 'e-safeguarding') please contact the Designated Person and safeguarding lead without delay. The school's Designated Person and safeguarding lead is Mrs Clare Hawkins.

Please see the Child Protection Policy for further information.

Supervision of Children

All children in the Reception have a key person which is their class teacher. Please see the Supervision of Children Policy for further information.

Staff qualifications, training, support and skills are up to date and regular opportunities are provided for staff CPD. A qualified teacher is always working in EYFS with the support of a Teaching Assistant.

Staff are recruited using the procedure set out in the Safe Recruitment of Staff Policy. Staff are supervised by the Head Teacher.

Policy on the Administration of Medicine in the Reception

Reception Class staff follow the school's procedures to promote the good health of children attending the setting. The procedures for responding to children who are ill or infectious; the necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection; and the appropriate action to be taken if a child is ill.

The EYFS policy on the administration of medication is based on DfE (2021) EYFS Statutory Framework and the school's Medication Policy. In addition to the school's procedures for the administration of medicine set out in the Medication Policy, the following must be adhered to in the EYFS:

"Prescription medicines must not be administered unless they have been prescribed for a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist (medicines containing aspirin should only be given if prescribed by a doctor)."

Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage (2021)

EYFS staff will NOT administer any medication unless prior written consent is given for each and every medicine. The school has a separate medication consent form for parents to complete. Please ask your child's teacher for one when necessary. Please see the Medication Policy. EYFS staff will endeavour to follow parents' instructions but reserve the right to refuse to administer medication to a child in their care, if they believe this affects the safety of the child.

Storage of Medications

The procedure for the storage of medication including life-saving prescribed medications, i.e. "emergency medications", is set out in the school's First Aid Policy and the Medication Policy. All medications must be securely stored out of sight and reach of children, in the wall-mounted medication cabinet in the medical room near the office.

Emergency medication, such as inhalers and EpiPens, will be within easy reach of staff in case of an immediate need, but will remain out of children's reach and under supervision at all times. Emergency medications are taken when he or she is participating in activities outside of the school buildings e.g. on the Heath, or on an educational visit/school trip. Additional emergency medications will be stored in the medication cabinet.

Staff Medications/other substances

All staff must be fit to work. All staff must sign a medical declaration before starting work at the school.

Staff must not be under the influence of alcohol or any other substance that may affect their ability to care for children. Staff must seek medical advice if they are taking medication which may affect their ability to care for children, and those staff may only work directly with children if medical advice confirms that the medication is unlikely to impair that staff member's ability to look after children properly. Any staff medication must be securely stored at all times. Staff medication must be clearly labelled and stored in the medication cabinet.

First aid bags should only contain items permitted by the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations Act 1981, such as sterile dressing, bandages, and eye pads. No other medical items, such as paracetamol, ibuprofen or aspirin or any staff medication, should be kept in the first aid bags.

Hygiene procedures for dealing with the spillage of bodily fluids

Please see the health and safety policies and Hygiene policies for more details.

Accident Reporting Procedures, including those reportable under RIDDOR

Please see the Health and Safety Policy.

Paediatric First Aid

At least one member of staff qualified in paediatric first aid will always be present in the EYFS setting and on any EYFS trips or educational visits. Staff will follow their training, and the procedures set out in the school's First Aid Policy.

Managing Behaviour

The procedures for managing children's behaviour in the EYFS, including promoting and rewarding positive

behaviour, and sanctions for poor behaviour, are set out in the school's Behaviour Policy.

Please note, corporal punishment is **NEVER** given to a child. Physical intervention and restraint should only be used when no other form of control is available, and it is only necessary to intervene for the purpose of averting immediate danger or personal injury to any person (including the child) or to manage a child's behaviour if absolutely necessary. The school has a policy on Physical Contact, Physical Restraint and Use of Force which is set out in the Staff Code of Conduct. The Staff Code of Conduct sets the expectation for the standards of behaviour all staff are expected to observe.

Please see the Behaviour Policy and the Staff Code of Conduct for further information.

Health and Safety

Please see the Health and Safety Policy and the Risk Assessment Access to Risky Areas Policy. Risk Assessments are carried out for the classroom and play areas and daily safety checks are completed for EYFS areas. Additional risk assessments are completed for and educational visits.

Complaints Procedure

The procedure for dealing with complaints from parents or carers of children in the EYFS is set out in the whole school Complaints Procedure.