



## EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE STATEMENT (all school policies include the EYFS)

At Deepdene we aim to provide the highest quality care and education for all our children thereby giving them a strong foundation for their future learning. We create a safe and happy environment with motivating and enjoyable learning experiences that enable children to become confident and independent. We value the individual child and work alongside parents and others to meet their needs and help every child to reach their full potential.

As outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 'every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and aged 5 have a major impact on their future life chances'.

During their time spend in Nursery and Reception, your child will be following the EYFS achieving the early learning goals by the end of the Reception year.

The early learning goals set high expectations in the 7 areas of learning and at Deepdene we aim to meet the diverse needs of all children so that they will achieve and some, where appropriate go beyond the goals by the end of the foundation stage.

We adhere to the Statutory Framework of the EYFS and the four guiding principles that shape practice within Early Years settings.

- 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 carer
- Children **develop** and **learn** in different ways. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs disabilities.

### **Foundation Stage Curriculum**

We plan an exciting and challenging curriculum based on our observation of children's needs, interests, and stages of development across the seven areas of learning to enable the children to achieve and exceed the early learning goals.

All the seven areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These three areas are the **prime** areas:

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

Children are also supported through the four **specific** areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

The **specific** areas are:

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

Emphasis is placed on learning through well-structured and purposeful play, developing not only future academic potential but also the equally important emotional and social skills of the child. Our friendly and enthusiastic team is constantly updating their knowledge and experience of the Early Years and are committed to making sure every child reaches his or her full potential by setting work which is challenging, motivating and fun.

### **Seven areas of learning and development**

#### **The Prime Areas**

##### **Communication and Language**

- Children will speak and listen to others and maintain attention.
- Children will be encouraged to listen to stories and rhymes and behave as readers.
- Children's use of language will become more proficient and their vocabulary will continue to extend.

##### **Physical Development**

- Children will learn to move with confidence in a number of ways, negotiating space successfully.
- They will become more skilful at climbing and using equipment e.g. catching a ball.
- They will use one-handed tools and equipment safely with increasing control, including holding a pencil effectively.
- They will learn handwriting patterns and how to write their name.
- They will practise manipulative skills, e.g. cooking and threading.
- The children will become aware of being healthy and how to maintain good health. Children will take increasing responsibility for managing their own hygiene and when putting on their coat.

##### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

- Children will learn to play cooperatively with others and will form good relationships with peers and familiar adults. They will learn to share and take turns with resources and play games together.
- They will gain increasing independence, including selecting their own activities.
- They will develop their confidence to try new activities and talk to others. Children will become more aware of their own feelings and those of other people; and understand appropriate behaviour and the implications of their behaviour towards others.

## **The Specific Areas**

### **Literacy**

- Children will engage in rhyming, rhythmic and alliterative activities.
- They will listen to poems, rhymes, songs, stories and non-fiction books.
- They will become aware of the features of stories.
- They will begin to make marks and ascribe meaning to these marks. Children will begin to learn letter-sounds and write these when they are ready. They will also learn to recognise words.

### **Mathematics**

- Children will learn to recite numbers.
- They will learn to represent numbers using fingers, marks on paper or pictures.
- They will begin to recognise numbers and count objects through the use of number stories and rhymes.
- They will compare two groups of objects.
- Children will develop their mathematical vocabulary, for example shape, position and measure.
- They will explore patterns and create their own.

### **Understanding the World**

This encompasses finding out about people and community, their physical world and technology.

The children will be encouraged to talk about significant events in their own life and their family and find out about other people's experiences.

- They will begin to find out about different ways of life and join in with various celebrations.
- They will observe and find out about their environment and the natural world, including plants, animals, natural and found objects.
- Children will learn to operate technological equipment, including computers and cameras.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

- Children will be encouraged to explore and to play with a range of materials and media as well as be imaginative when they build, paint, draw etc.
- Children will learn to sing familiar songs and dance.
- They will explore musical instruments and explore how sounds change.
- They will explore colour, texture e.g. mixing paint.
- Children will build objects and use tools for a purpose.
- They will capture experiences and responses with a range of media.
- Children will engage in imaginative role-play with their peers, e.g. going to the seaside.