



Starting EYFS Parent Handbook 2023-2024



Early Years Foundation Stage Unit

At Willow Green Academy, we follow an ethos which focuses on the development of learning through inspirational teaching and learning. All practitioners teach skills through offering children the opportunity to play. Practitioners follow the interests of the children and enhance learning provisions in line with this. This provides children with the opportunity, not only acquire enthusiasm for learning, but to enhance their communication and language development.

Our EY unit offers the children a range of discreet spaces: a woodwork room, a kitchen area and an outdoor nature area. This enhanced provision further extends the opportunities for the children's extended play. The children develop all their skills from PSE, the Understanding the World and maths in these areas, through their play. The environment is enhanced based on the needs of the children daily and predominantly with natural resources. Our outdoor provision area is an extension of our indoor classroom and is an integral element to our Early Years provision. This is important to us, as we offer children the same opportunities to develop their learning both indoors and out. Children are actively encouraged to access the outdoor areas throughout the school day all year round.



"Education is a natural process carried out by the child and is not acquired by listening to words but experiences in the environment."

Dr Maria Montessori

The EY Curriculum

We provide a happy, safe and caring environment where your child can feel secure, grow in confidence and form positive relationships with other children and adults.

Throughout Early Years children follow the Foundation Stage Curriculum which is divided into seven areas:

- Personal Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Find out more explore the statutory framework.



Outdoor Play

We have a large, enclosed outdoor play area with a range of outdoor equipment, which is used everyday except in the case of extreme weather conditions. All outdoor play activities are carefully structured to meet and develop the needs of the children. Our outdoor provision compliments our indoors with it offering a range of learning experiences.



All about EY

Children enter FS1 the term after they are three years old and move into FS2 during the year that they become five years old. In the EY unit we have an open unit approach where our FS1 and FS2 children co play.

Staff in the Unit



Ms Nadia Williams
EYFS Lead/EYFS Teacher



Ms Michelle Frost
HLTA EYFS



Ms Carly Turner
TA EYFS



Ms Adele Ewart
TA EYFS

“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.”

DFE Statutory Framework 2021

Our FS1 Day

The EY unit doors open at 8.40am and children enter the unit and put away their belongings. They head to the carpet for their morning routine where they explore who is in school and find out what day it is. After morning routine, the children have a short, guided session to explore their pre phonics. The children then enter the provision and have access to the outdoor and inside learning environment. Snack is available throughout the morning which consists of fruit and milk. The children then have a short adult session in which they explore new texts or mathematics ending the day with story time and then doors re open at 11.45am.



Our FS2 Day

The EY unit doors open at 8.40am and children enter the unit and put away their belongings. They head to the carpet for their morning routine which focuses on mathematical concepts. After morning routine, the children have a short, guided phonics session. The children then enter the provision and have access to the outdoor and inside learning environment. Snack is available throughout the morning which consists of fruit and milk. The children then have a Literacy session in which they explore new texts and carry out some activities. 12pm Lunch begins and the children eat and head outside for some fresh air. After lunch we register the children and have a mathematics session using concrete resources. Then throughout the week the children have more provision time, PE, Jigsaw and Music. We end the day with story time and then doors re open at 3.20pm.

Starting EY

We need to make the transition from home to school as easy as possible. For this reason, we arrange a home visit for our FS1 children before your child starts to meet you and your child in the relaxed setting of your home environment.

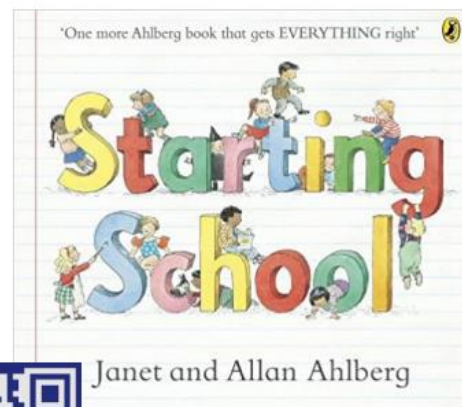
In the months leading up to your child entering the EY unit you will be offered some stay and play sessions in which you can attend with your child and become familiar with the environment and staff.

Parents will be offered a meeting with the EY lead who will talk about the curriculum, daily routines and expectations.

As the children start we will release a timetable which will allow you to see the dates and times the children will enter in their first week.

Please talk to your child about starting school in a positive way. Tell them what to expect and reassure them that you will pick them up at the end of the session. Remember they are leaving a familiar environment and entering a new strange place with unfamiliar adults, which they may find challenging.

A great book for supporting starting FS1 is 'I'm starting Nursery' and a great book for FS2 is 'Starting School'. This allows you to begin the conversations surrounding their new adventure.



Clothing

Children need to wear clothes that they can manage themselves when going to the toilet and learning outdoors. Children always have access to the outdoor area so need warm clothing in the wintertime. Please ensure all clothes, including coats and shoes, are named.

Aprons are always worn for 'messy' activities, but children do splash or spill on their clothes, so please ensure they are dressed appropriately.

Spare clothes need to be sent for children starting FS1 (please refer to the section entitled 'Toileting').

School uniform is optional for children in FS1 however FS2 is compulsory this consists of:



- Royal blue sweatshirt/jumper or cardigan – with or without school logo
- Plain white shirt/blouse or polo shirt
- Plain dark grey trousers, pinafore or skirts
- In summer/ warmer weather tailored dark grey shorts or blue check summer dress (optional)

Uniform can be purchased online at www.sptuniforms.co.uk

Toileting

Young children inevitably have accidents at school and our staff will always provide the necessary assistance whilst encouraging your child to become more independent. To support us in this please bring a spare set of pants, socks/tights, leggings/skirt/trousers in a named bag when your child first starts FS1. If your FS2 children is still requiring intimate care please discuss this with a member of the EY team. Please read our intimate care policy and sign and return the attached form.

Toys/ Jewellery

We discourage children from bringing their own toys to nursery as they often get broken, lost or forgotten and this can be very upsetting for young children. For health and safety reasons we do not allow jewellery in school. If your child wears earrings, please ensure they are the small stud type.

Milk and snacks

Free milk is provided for all children in EY. For children who don't drink milk, we provide water. We encourage children to bring their own water in a bottle from home. As part of the Government's School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme, each child is given a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day. We promote healthy eating and encourage the children to try lots of different fruits & vegetables.

Collecting your child

An adult must always collect your child. If it is not going to be you, please let us know. If, for any reason, you will be late collecting your child please telephone the office. A member of staff will always stay with your child until you arrive to reassure them, as they can become anxious very quickly if they are left behind when all the other children are leaving.

Partnership

We believe it is vitally important that parents and the academy work together for the benefit of your child. With your support the academy can help your child to achieve their maximum potential.

Use opportunities at home to develop your child's number and literacy skills - reading labels when shopping, road signs, counting cars, reading house numbers, observing colours shapes and sizes. The opportunities are endless; you will be surprised what your child can already read; for example, familiar brands and signs like Morrisons, Asda and Heinz.

Formal parent consultations are held twice per academic year but you will have the opportunity to speak with the class teacher each day as you bring your child to school should you have any questions or concerns. Throughout the day we use class dojo to inform you of events, learning and those all-important wow moments. Class dojo gives you the opportunity to add to your child's portfolio of learning with those special moments at home.



"It is important for parents and early years settings to have a strong and respectful partnership. This sets the scene for children to thrive in the early years. This includes listening regularly to parents and giving parents clear information about their children's progress. The help that parents give their children at home has a very significant impact on their learning."

DFE Development Matters 2021

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