



VENN BOULEVARD NURSERY

EARLY YEARS POLICY

Reviewed By	Approved By	Date of Approval	Version Approved
Claire Goodaire	Governors	Sept 2021	1.1
Gill Brigham	Governors	Sept 2023	1.2

Policy Statement

Venn Boulevard Nursery is committed to implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). We use the non-statutory guidance of Development Matters to enable us to assess where children are developmentally.

Aim

We aim to provide a foundation for lifelong learning, where children have fun and they feel safe, secure and happy. We encourage the development of children's independence through a wide range of different activities and play opportunities. We value children learning through play and exploration, developing and extending their natural curiosity and providing elements of structure and routine to enable them to realise their potential. Through planning, we put the children's interests first and we reflect upon how the children are learning and developing enabling us to embed best practice throughout our Nursery.

We provide a nurturing and stimulating environment that encourages learning through play and exploration. We celebrate achievements and build on previous experiences. Our experienced staff value and understand the importance that positive role models can play in the lives of our children.

We ensure that we develop a close working partnership with parents/carers, they are their child's first educator and know them better than anyone else.

Legislation

This policy is based on the requirements set out in the Statutory Framework for the EYFS that applies from September 2023.

There are four overarching principles that shape the practice in our Nursery. They are:

- **A Unique Child**
At Venn Boulevard Nursery we are a bespoke setting offering care to children who are three and under. We understand that each child is an individual and we meet their individual needs. We support each child to enable them to be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
- **Positive Relationships**
Upon arrival to our Nursery each child knows who their key worker will be and we recognise that children become strong and independent when they make secure relationships. We value parents and carers views and opinions on their child as they are their first educator and know them best. We endeavour to make positive relationships with our families to give our children the best start to their early education.

- Enabling Environments
We recognise that the environment around the child plays a vital part in their overall learning and development. We provide a stimulating environment that children are able to explore, that helps promote and extend their learning opportunities.
- Learning and Development
We recognise that children learn and develop at different rates. We make observations on each child and assess their development to plan the next steps for each child to inform our planning and provision.

This document also complies with our funding agreement with the Local Authority.

Curriculum

Our Nursery setting follows the curriculum as outlined in the latest version of the EYFS Statutory Framework that applies from September 2023.

The EYFS Framework includes 7 areas of learning and development that are equally important and inter-connected. The Prime Areas are seen as particularly important for igniting curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and for building children's capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

The Prime Areas are:

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

The Prime Areas are strengthened and applied through four specific areas:

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

Planning, Teaching and Observation

Staff plan activities and experiences for children that enable children to develop and learn effectively. In order to do this, we place a strong focus on the three prime areas.

Staff consider the individual needs, interests and stage of development of each child in their care and use this information to plan a challenging and enjoyable experience.

We regularly observe children and use these to inform our future planning. Ensuring that what we plan meets the needs of the children. We follow the plan, do review cycle, which enables us to meet the specific needs of the children in our Nursery.

We complete the 2-year check on each child in our Nursery that needs one and share these with our parents/carers (please see our 2-year check policy).

Our staff identify children who may have additional needs and plan and input support where necessary. We consider whether specialist support is required, linking with relevant services from other agencies where appropriate.

Each area of learning and development is implemented through purposeful play through a mix of child initiated as well as adult led activities. Staff respond to each child's emerging needs and interests, guiding their development through warm, positive interactions.

Assessment

At Venn Boulevard Nursery ongoing assessment is an integral part of the learning and development processes. Staff observe children to identify their level of achievement, interests and learning styles. The observations are used to shape future planning, through our plan, do, review cycle. Staff also consider observations shared by parents/carers.

Inclusion

Children are all unique individuals who differences should be celebrated. At Venn Boulevard Nursery we do not discriminate against any child, all children and their families are valued.

Children may have different life experiences, needs and backgrounds and all of this is taken into consideration when planning to meet their needs.

Keeping Safe

At Venn Boulevard we recognise the importance of keeping children safe. Children are encouraged to manage their own risks whilst being supported by our trained practitioners, this helps build resilience as they are taught how to recognise and avoid dangers. An important life skill that we help develop is providing children with choices that helps to teach them right from wrong. The physical, emotional and mental health of our children is of paramount importance. We maintain our ratios and ensure that there are always enough staff to children (1:3 for under 2's and 1:5 for under 3's).

Health and Welfare

At Venn Boulevard Nursery, we believe that children are able to realise their full potential when they are happy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met

and they are able to make positive relationships with those who are caring for them. We ensure that we comply with the legal requirements set out in the EYFS.

Positive relationships are key to ensuring children's safety and welfare.

We promote healthy lifestyle choices during our day, including toothbrushing and providing healthy snacks. We follow statutory guidance for safety around toothbrushing.

We complete daily checks on our provision and its contents ensuring that it is safe for the children to explore. Policies and procedures are reviewed regularly and amended accordingly.

Safer recruiting is followed as part of our recruitment process.

Keyworker

As stated in the statutory requirements of the EYFS all our children are allocated a key worker, to ensure strong bonds and resilience are built (see Key Worker and Settling in Policy).

Environment

Our environment is set up to offer children the opportunity to learn and explore securely and safely. The children have the opportunity to access resources themselves to enhance their learning, this has a positive impact on their holistic development.

Our outdoor environment offers children the chance to develop their gross motor skills and learn in different ways and on a different scale than when in our indoor provision.

Working with Parents

We recognise that children learn and develop well when there is a strong partnership between staff and parents/carers.

Each child is assigned a key worker who helps to ensure that care and learning is tailored to meet a child's individual needs. The key worker also supports parents/carers in guiding their child's development at home. The key worker also helps families engage with more specialist support if it is needed.

Parents/carers are kept up to date with their child's progress and development and have their thoughts and observations listened to through face to face conversations, phone calls, email, parent mail and Tapestry. We also send information to parents via a text with parent mail.

Parents/carers are also able to add their own observations onto their child's electronic learning journal, Tapestry.

At the end of their time with us we give parents a copy of their child's learning journey.

Wider Community

At Venn Boulevard Nursery we aim to forge links with our local community.

We celebrate each other's differences, cultures and religion enabling us to help children to develop an understanding of the diverse world in which we live.

We promote British Values within the setting.

List of Statutory Policies and Procedures for the EYFS

Statutory policy or procedure for the EYFS	Where can it be found?
Safeguarding Policy and Procedures	See Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
Procedure for Responding to Illness	See Sickness Policy
Administering Medicines policy	See Administering Medicine Policy
Emergency Evacuation Policy	See Fire and Emergency Evacuation Policy
Procedure for checking the identity of visitors	See Visitors Policy
Procedures for a parent failing to collect a child and for missing children	See Uncollected Child Policy and Missing Child Policy
Procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints	See Complaints Policy

Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed and approved by the Venn Academy Trust as often as is required. At every review the policy will be shared with the governing board.

Written by: Claire Goodaire & Gill Brigham

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