



**Sandy Hill
Academy**



Sandy Hill Academy

'Aspiring to achieve, determined to succeed'

Early Years Foundation Stage Welcome to Nursery

Updated: June 2020



hello@sandyhill.org.uk
Welcome to Nursery at Sandy Hill Academy

Ethos, Aims & Values

Our vision for Sandy Hill Academy is:

For it to be a centre of excellence for teaching and learning for all. We will aim to create an environment that is safe and that enhances and develops children's desire to learn and to equip them for their future.

We offer an option of 5 morning or 5 afternoon sessions to maximise your child's opportunity to learn in a playful school—based learning environment. Attending a school—based nursery bridges the gap between a pre—school setting and school and has been proven to aid smoother transitions and better outcomes for pupils. Our Nursery staff are dedicated to supporting children to reach their full potential and to become independent learners.

Sandy Hill Nursery will be a place where children's individual needs and abilities will be recognised and nurtured, their successes acknowledged and celebrated. To see Sandy Hill Nursery as a place where children are happy, confident and secure in the knowledge that they are valued and listened to, where they can be excited and challenged in an environment that promotes learning at all levels.

To see Sandy Hill Nursery at the centre of our community, accessible to all, and identified as a centre for exemplary Early Years Practice.

At Sandy Hill Nursery we recognise that children develop quickly in the Early Years. We aim to give children the best possible start to life, a secure foundation that their learning can be built upon. Children are born ready and are able and eager to learn and we aim to promote their learning in our warm, caring and safe environment.

We recognise the importance of a strong partnership between parents, carers and staff at school. This is an essential ingredient to the child's success and we encourage parents to contribute to their child's development by sharing their child's learning journey and attending parent meetings.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum. This document sets out the standards that all Early Years providers must meet to ensure 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.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Seeks to provide:

- ❖ Quality and consistency in all early years settings, 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.
- ❖ A partnership working between practitioners and with parents and carers.
- ❖ Equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported.

There are four guiding principles shaping practice in the Early Years. These are:

Unique Child

Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident, and self-assured.

Positive Relationships

Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

Enabling Environments

Children learn well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents/carers.

The areas of learning and development

There are seven areas of learning and development in the Early Years Foundation stage, three prime areas and four specific areas. All the areas of learning are important and interconnected. The areas are crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

Prime Areas	Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Specific Areas	Literacy
	Physical Development		Mathematics
	Communication & Language		Understanding the World
	Expressive Arts & Design		

Each area of learning and development is delivered through planned, purposeful play and through a mix of child initiated and adult-led activity. Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems and relate to others.

Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play which is guided by adults. There is a balance between activities led by children and activities led or guided by adults. Activities are a response to the child's emerging needs and interest and we guide their development through warm, positive interaction.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

The Characteristics of Effective Learning play an important part in the Early Years Foundation Stage, as they address how the child learns rather than what the child learns. There are three characteristics of effective learning outlined in the non-statutory guidance 'Development Matters'. These are: Playing and Exploring, Active

Learning and Creating, and Thinking Critically. Each one of these is then divided into three further elements.

Assessment

Assessment takes place throughout the school year to inform planning and to ensure that children are appropriately challenged, progress is made and individual's next steps are identified. For further information, or to read the EYFS statutory framework in full, please visit the following weblink:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/596629/EYFS_STATUTORY_FRAMEWORK_2017.pdf

Our Classroom Environment

At Sandy Hill Nursery, our EYFS environment enables children to become fully immersed in purposeful play of their own choice and interest. Their play is sensitively supported by the adults in the room to develop specific skills and to broaden the children's experiences. The children at Sandy Hill Nursery benefit from both outdoor and indoor areas which allow for learning in all areas of development and which are carefully set up to promote independence, creative thinking and to stimulate the children's imaginations and thoughts.

It is our aim to support children's ability to regulate their thoughts, feelings and emotions, whilst pursuing activities that require the children to exercise their perseverance and determination. Our Nursery environment also promotes a positive relationship with health and exercise; ensuring that both gross motor and fine motor skills are being developed along with providing children with the knowledge and opportunities to be safe and healthy.

Our children have the opportunity to initiate their own learning with the adults joining, supporting and teaching them within the context of their play. They also benefit from direct teaching time in small groups where specific skills and next steps are worked on. At all times, the Nursery resources are available and accessible to the children; this is known as 'Continuous Provision'. It is through the organisation of these resources that our children become independent in their purposeful play and learning. When any resources are added to the continuous provision, it is taught to the children first, ensuring they are equipped with the correct knowledge and experiences to utilise the environment.

Enhanced provision is planned for and responds to the children's interests and the topics that we may be learning about at that time. It is through these enhancements that further progress is made for all children in specific skills and knowledge.

Areas in the Nursery are well thought out and planned for. Resources are carefully selected and regularly enhanced with new opportunities to meet the developing needs and interests of our children. Specific and organised resources can be found in the following areas; **Role play** | **Sand** | **Water** | **Small world** | **Investigation** | **Maths** | **Writing** | **Reading** | **Creative**

Sandy Hill Behaviour Policy

At Sandy Hill Nursery, we have introduced a new behaviour policy which will work in line with our 'Sandy Hill STARS'. Each class will have a consistent behaviour policy with 4 clear rules that run throughout our school

- Show respect and good manners
- Follow instructions
- Care for everyone and everything
- Try your best

STARS –Self-motivated, Thinkers, Aspirational, Resilient, Supportive



Preparing for Nursery at Sandy Hill Academy

Nursery Teacher Miss Lydia Polmouter	
Teaching Assistants	
Mrs Debbie Needham	Ms Kirsty James

All About Me Box

To support transition into Nursery we ask the children and their families to create an 'All About Me Box' over the summer leading up to the start of Nursery. Please provide a decorated shoe box containing photographs, objects and artefacts that are important to your child. This will help us to get to know your child and support the settling in process. These will be returned to you during the end of the first half term. (More information to follow-please see website for further details).

Tapestry

Please ensure to log in to Tapestry regularly. Tapestry is an online tool that we use to document the assessment of the children through observation. Observations are also encouraged with any home learning or 'Wow moments'. We will also use Tapestry to upload key documents and newsletters. An activation email will be sent to you once your child has enrolled and there will be further support and guidance to follow.

Newsletter

An EYFS specific newsletter is created at the beginning of each half term and will be uploaded to Tapestry. A Sandy Hill Newsletter will also be emailed to you each half term to keep you up to date with the wider school. The newsletter is also on our website at www.sandy.eschools.co.uk or paper copies will be available at the school office.

The Nursery Day

Session times:
Mornings – 8:30am – 11:30am

Afternoons – 12:00pm – 3:00pm

What does my child need for school?

Below is our Nursery uniform. The majority of the Nursery uniform you can purchase from local shops and supermarkets however, the school jumper can only be ordered from www.wovina.com or small amounts are available from Screen Print in St Austell. Please allow a couple of weeks delivery time for your jumper to arrive.

Boys:

White Polo Shirt
Black school sweatshirt
Black trousers or shorts
Black, grey or white socks
Black Shoes

Girls:

White Polo Shirt
Black school sweatshirt
Black skirt, pinafore dress or school style trousers
White socks or black white/black/ grey tights
Low heeled black shoes. No open toed sandals)



Children in the EYFS will also require a set of waterproof clothes and a pair of wellington boots.

To enable children to become more independent with going to the toilet, we ask parents to dress their child in trousers that do not need belts. Elasticated waists are preferable and are easier to pull up and down. In the Early Years we have a no laces or open toe shoe policy and request that your child wears velcro straps again for independence.

Change of Clothes: Please provide a spare set of clothing for your child, including a pair of school trousers/leggings, a white t-shirt and two sets of pants and socks. These can be put inside a plastic carrier bag inside or rucksack.

Waterproofs and Wellington boots: Please provide a pair of wellington boots and waterproof trousers and coats (that stay at Nursery) for your child so they can access the curriculum in the outside area. Please write your child's name clearly on these.

It is very much appreciated when all Nursery clothing is clearly labelled including shoes - all school sweatshirts and shoes look alike! The wearing of jewellery, other than stud earrings is not permitted.

Water Bottle: Children learn best when they are hydrated! Please fill your water bottle with cool water each morning and we will replenish as needed throughout the day.

Snack Time: In Nursery we have a morning social snack time, where the children have access to a piece of fruit and a choice of other healthy prepared snacks. Snack is a voluntary £1 a week or can be paid monthly/termly to be given to the class teacher in a named sealed envelope. This will also cover our costs for cooking activities. Please

let us know if we should be aware of any food allergies or specific dietary requirements that your child may have on their medical form.

Toys: Please discourage your child from bringing toys to Nursery. They can cause disputes and children can become distressed if they are damaged or lost. Personal toys also hinder children from accessing the activities provided at school.

What about security?

Please tell the class teacher or phone the school office if your child is to be collected by a different adult.

Children are not allowed to leave the Nursery until the appropriate adult is present. Please inform the class teacher or telephone if there are any last minute changes to normal arrangements.

For security reasons, if a different person is collecting your child and you have not informed the office or the class teacher, we will phone you to check if this is okay before letting your child go. We also operate a password system in the Early Years and you should only give this password to the people you have agreed can pick up your child.

If you need to take your child out of school during the Nursery day please report to the staff at the school office who will arrange for your child to be collected from the classroom. When returning children to school, the system is reversed. Please report to the school office, do not take your child directly to the classroom. The children need to be signed in and out on these occasions.

If there are any changes in home circumstances which may affect how your child behaves in Nursery, please let us know. Any information you give us is treated with the strictest confidence. Often we can help children more effectively if we are prepared.

Information and advice for the use of the car park

To help create a safe and secure place for all children, we operate no parking policy. Any children arriving by taxi and those with a disability, or whose parents have a disability and hold a blue badge, will be allowed access to use the car park. Please make sure that if this applies to you that you have given the school office your car registration number.

What about first aid and medicines?

First Aid in School

All staff members are qualified first aiders and all playtimes are supervised. However, accidents can and do occur. We have strict procedures and staff are trained to deal with minor injuries. In serious cases parents or emergency contacts will immediately be contacted so children can be taken to their doctor or hospital. All accidents are recorded and in the case of a bumped head a note is sent home. If your child is taken ill and needs to be at home, or the injury needs further medical advice, you, or someone designated by you, would be telephoned immediately. **Please ensure that**

your contact numbers are always up to date. Please keep children at home if they have been ill during the night. Some children seem fine in the morning, but are often too tired to cope with nursery by the afternoon - and some become ill again which can be very distressing for them and the other children. Children who have had an upset stomach (vomiting and/or diarrhoea) need to be absent for 48 hours after their last bout.

Medicines cannot be administered by staff unless they have been prescribed for your child by a doctor, dentist or nurse (medicines containing aspirin/paracetamol should only be given if prescribed by a doctor).

You will need to complete a school form prior to this.

Children on special medication such as inhalers will have special arrangements made for them. Again a medical form will need to be filled in.

Sun Protection

On appropriate days please send your child to Nursery with a named sun hat and wearing a factor 50 sun cream. During the summer term the children will require a named sun hat and labelled sun cream to be kept at school.

Head Lice

Head lice is inevitable and nothing to be embarrassed about. Wet combing your child's conditioned hair with a nit comb will help you spot them. There are a number of effective preventions and treatments available from chemists or online. Please come and see us if you have any concerns.

Parents

Parents' contributions are included in the online learning journey (Tapestry) where parents are encouraged to add observations from home and view, and comment on, the observations made by staff at Nursery. Parents are also encouraged to share 'wow moments' and send them in to be celebrated in Nursery. Formal meetings are held with parents in October and in February. This is then followed up in July with a full written report. Each half term parents are invited in to share and celebrate their child's learning with them where the children will have their printed Learning Journey to look and talk through.

Curriculum

At Sandy Hill Nursery we enhance the EYFS curriculum to ensure that teaching in all areas is covered in a robust and meaningful way. We use the following schemes to support our teaching.

PE – Healthy Movers

The material in 'Healthy Movers' is delivered weekly. The schemes within 'Arena' and 'Healthy Movers' are designed to provide complete coverage of all aspects required to enhance physical development in the foundation stage. The following areas of knowledge skills and understanding are taught within the process of

evaluating and improving performance, acquiring and developing skills, selecting and applying skills and understanding of fitness and health

Special Education Needs

Our vision for children with special educational needs and disabilities is the same as for all children and young people – that they achieve well in their early years, at school and lead happy and fulfilled lives.

Tick List Box

Wellington boots

Waterproofs (Separate coat and trousers are preferred)

Water bottle

Ruck sack with spare clothes

All About Me Box

Activate Tapestry Account when confirmation email is sent

Download Arbor App