



ALEC REED ACADEMY
PROUD TO LEARN

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Information

Target Audience:	Parents	Requirement to Publish on Website:	Yes
Purpose:	To inform as to how we are meeting our statutory duty	Statutory	Yes
Review Date:	July 2024	Approval Date:	July 2023

EYFS

Children learning in Nursery and Reception classes are known as the Early Years (EYFS). We follow the national Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework. The EYFS is a very important stage in a child's life as it helps prepare for school 'readiness' as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. Children's early years' experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs. 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 before the age of five will have a major impact on their future life chances.

The EYFS framework explains how and what children will be learning to support their healthy development and provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

Children will learn skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development. These are split up into:

Prime Areas

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

All 7 areas of learning are used to plan children's learning and activities. At Alec Reed Academy, children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside. It is very important that they develop social skills, such as turn-taking, sharing and independence, which help them greatly in the next stages of their learning. We aim for children to be well-rounded individuals who are independent, resilient, and confident in themselves and with others.

Welcome to Nursery

In our Nursery, we welcome children from the term in which they are three. From the moment your child enters our Nursery they will be encouraged to follow their natural curiosity and to become independent learners through exciting and absorbing activities with the guidance of our caring and experienced Nursery team. We offer an early year's education based upon play and first-hand experiences with skilled adult interactions, providing a high level of care, a superb learning environment and a committed staff. These daily experiences lay strong foundations of improved speaking and listening, social awareness, self-confidence, independence and Literacy and Numeracy skills.

Settling into early years is an important time for young children and their families. For some children this will be the first time they may have been left with another person and often the first time they have been left in a larger environment. At Alec Reed Academy we aim to make this process as smooth as possible. All children and families are unique, and their individual needs are taken into account throughout the settling in process.

SETTLING IN

Children's entry into nursery and reception are staggered to enable staff to spend time welcoming and settling in new children.

On your child's first day parents/carers should:

- Arrive promptly at the allocated time, to allow your child to be welcomed by their class adults and personally settled in.
- On your child's first day, be prepared to stay near the school grounds, or arrange for another familiar adult to do so, in case your child feels distressed and needs support.

Welcome to Reception

Reception is an important stage in a child's journey into full time education, preparing them for education in key stage 1. We follow on from the teaching in Nursery where children are still encouraged to play and explore using their natural curiosity to become independent learners. Children are encouraged to become independent learners through a balance of child initiated and adult led activities.

Children begin to follow a more structured timetable and every day they will have a literacy session, maths session, guided reading, phonics and story time. Children will continue to learn skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development. These are split up into:

Prime Areas

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

At the end of the year children are assessed against the 17 Early Learning Goals which are derived from the 7 areas of learning. Assessment plays an important part in recognising the children's progress and their needs, which in turn helps staff to plan relevant and motivating experiences for each child.

Curriculum

We believe that in Early Years, children learn most effectively through play. The children are encouraged to participate in all of the activities whether indoors in our large and bright classroom or outside in their dedicated playground.

Children learn best when they are happy, safe and secure. We offer a rich and varied curriculum in a safe and engaging environment. We understand that children develop at their own pace, and our experienced staff use assessment carefully to ensure every child reaches their full potential. Our environment is planned to enable children the opportunity to extend and develop their thinking and learning across all areas of the curriculum. The curriculum overview shows what the children will be learning about but we also follow the children's interests and use our assessment to plan an environment that challenges and engages the children.