



Hennock Primary School

EYFS Curriculum Statement



In Link Academy Trust schools, we want our children to be resilient learners; confident to explore their environment, self-motivated to build on their learning and overcome challenges and barriers to their learning as they arise. The development of vocabulary, communication and language underpins our curriculum design and empowers children to use rich and varied language to communicate effectively and interact with others. We foster and develop children's curiosity by providing broad and balanced educational opportunities to support the developing needs and interests of each child, thus enabling every child to reach their full potential.

The Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning are at the heart of our practice and enable the children in our schools to develop their exploration skills, resilience, perseverance, creativity, pride in their learning and the ability to think critically about their learning. In order to support child development, we consider the 'whole child' and that each and every child is unique. Teachers and support staff know how children learn and develop and provide rich, playful learning opportunities that are tailor made to the children's needs in our settings.

Early years is the foundation to give children the opportunity to learn together and flourish.

Vocabulary

Children's command of vocabulary is fundamental to learning and progress across the curriculum. Vocabulary is developed actively, building systematically on pupil's current knowledge and deepening their understanding of etymology and morphology (word origins and structures) to increase their store of words. Simultaneously, pupils make links between known and new vocabulary, and discuss and apply shades of meaning. In this way, children expand the vocabulary choices that are available to them. It is essential to introduce technical vocabulary which define each curriculum subject. Vocabulary development is underpinned by an oracy culture and a tiered approach. High value is placed on the conscious, purposeful selection of well-chosen vocabulary and appropriate sentence structure to enrich access to learning and feed into written work across the curriculum.

At Hennock vocabulary is purposefully built into Early Years English sessions using the Book Buds Scheme to ensure all children are exposed to a variety of new vocabulary and given an opportunity to use, explore and practice it within a safe and fun environment.

Communication and Language

As a Prime area of learning this underpins all that we do at Hennock and we really prioritise establishing and maintaining an environment whereby all children feel confident and comfortable to express themselves and build up their communication and language skills.

Reading frequently to children, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts, will give children the opportunity to thrive. Through conversation, storytelling and role play, where children share their ideas with support and modelling from their teacher, and sensitive questioning that invites them to elaborate, children become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and

language structures.

3 -4 years

By the end of their Pre-school experience children will be learning to:

- Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important.
- Learn new vocabulary and use it in context (sometimes with visual prompts and sentence stems)
- Understand 'why' questions like: "why do you think the Caterpillar got so fat?"
- Use past and future tense "I am going to the zoo," "I went to school."
- Answer why questions
- Use some social phrases "Good Morning," "How are you?" and respond appropriately

Reception

By the end of their Reception Experience children will be learning to:

- Respond in a variety of ways to my school adults and peers in both small and large groups.
- Clarify their meaning through questioning
- Agree and disagree politely with others offering some supporting explanation
- Show consistent learning behaviours in all environments and areas of learning
- Speak confidently in a range of environments
- Use talk for a wide range of purposes
- Correctly sequence and retell a familiar story
- Use a range of descriptive vocabulary
- Use all my speech sounds consistently (except for th and r as age appropriate) and some consonant blends regularly

The Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning

The characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- **playing and exploring** – children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'
- **active learning** – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- **creating and thinking critically** – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things

Playing and exploring

Children will be learning to:

- Realise that their actions have an effect on the world, so they want to keep repeating them.
- Plan and think ahead about how they will explore or play with objects.
- Guide their own thinking and actions by referring to visual aids or by talking to themselves while playing.
- Make independent choices.
- Bring their own interests and fascinations into early years settings. This helps them to develop their learning.
- Respond to new experiences that you bring to their attention.

Active learning

Children will be learning to:

- Participate in routines.
- Begin to predict sequences because they know routines.
- Show goal-directed behaviour.
- Begin to correct their mistakes themselves.
- Keep trying when things are difficult.

Creating and thinking critically

Children will be learning to:

- Take part in simple pretend play.
- Sort materials.
- Review their progress as they try to achieve a goal.
- Solve real problems.
- Use pretend play to think beyond the 'hear and now' and to understand another perspective.
- Know more and feel confident about coming up with their own ideas.
- Making links.
- Concentrating on achieving something that's important to them.
- Control attention and ignore distractions.

These are also linked at Hennock to our Growth Mindset Acheivosaurus which are introduced in Reception and used throughout KS1.

- I can learn from my mistakes - Stickosaurus

- Challenges help me grow - Solversaurus Rex
- Effort leads to improvement - Tryatops
- We learn from each other - Shareonyx
- Feedback helps me improve - Thinkodokus
- Being Kind grows friendships- Kindatops
- I ask for help when I need it- Askaraptor

EYFS Curriculum

We use the EYFS statutory framework educational programmes, supported by Development Matters and Birth to Five guidance, to design our curriculum. We ensure that the learning opportunities and experiences we provide are clearly linked to both the Prime and Specific areas of learning.

Three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving.

These are the **prime areas**:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development

The four **specific** areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied are:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

Educational Programmes

Communication and Language

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. Children's back-and-forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and cognitive development. The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language-rich

environment is crucial. By commenting on what children are interested in or doing, and echoing back what they say with new vocabulary added, practitioners will build children's language effectively. Reading frequently to children, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts, will give children the opportunity to thrive. Through conversation, story-telling and role play, where children share their ideas with support and modelling from their teacher, and sensitive questioning that invites them to elaborate, children become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children's personal, social and emotional development (PSED) is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives, and is fundamental to their cognitive development. Underpinning their personal development are the important attachments that shape their social world. Strong, warm and supportive

relationships with adults enable children to learn how to understand their own feelings and those of others. Children should be supported to manage emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, to persist and wait for what they want and direct attention as necessary. Through adult modelling and guidance, they will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and manage personal needs independently. Through supported interaction with other children, they learn how to make good friendships, co-operate and resolve conflicts peaceably. These attributes will provide a secure platform from which children can achieve at school and in later life.

Physical Development

Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives⁷. Gross and fine motor experiences develop incrementally throughout early childhood, starting with sensory explorations and the development of a child's strength, co-ordination and positional awareness through tummy time, crawling and play movement with both objects and adults. By creating games and providing opportunities for play both indoors and outdoors, adults can support children to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility. Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being. Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye co-ordination, which is later linked to early literacy. Repeated and varied opportunities to explore and play with small world activities, puzzles, arts and crafts and the practice of using small tools, with feedback and support from adults, allow children to develop proficiency, control and confidence.

Literacy

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension (necessary for both reading and writing) starts from birth. It only develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books (stories and non-fiction) they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together. Skilled word reading, taught later, involves both the speedy working out of the pronunciation of unfamiliar printed words (decoding) and the speedy recognition of familiar printed words. Writing involves transcription (spelling and handwriting) and composition (articulating ideas and structuring them in speech, before writing).

Mathematics

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently, develop a deep understanding of the numbers to 10, the relationships between them and the patterns within those numbers. By providing frequent and varied opportunities to build and apply this understanding - such as using manipulatives, including small pebbles and tens frames for organising counting - children will develop a secure base of knowledge and vocabulary from which mastery of mathematics is built. In addition, it is important that the curriculum includes rich opportunities for children to develop their spatial reasoning skills across all areas of mathematics including shape, space and measures. It is important that children develop positive attitudes and interests in mathematics, look for patterns and relationships, spot connections, 'have a go', talk to adults and peers about what they notice and not be afraid to make mistakes.

Understanding the World

Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The frequency and range of children's personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them – from visiting parks, libraries and museums to meeting important members of society such as police officers, nurses and firefighters. In addition, listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world. As well as building important knowledge, this extends their familiarity with words that support understanding across domains. Enriching and widening children's vocabulary will support later reading comprehension.

Expressive Arts and Design

The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage

with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. The quality and variety of what children see, hear and participate in is crucial for developing their understanding, self-expression, vocabulary and ability to communicate through the arts. The frequency, repetition and depth of their experiences are fundamental to their progress in interpreting and appreciating what they hear, respond to and observe.

Early Learning Goals

The level of development children should be expected to have attained by the end of the EYFS is defined by the early learning goals (ELGs). The ELGs support teachers to make a holistic, best-fit judgement about a child's development, and their readiness for year 1. When forming a judgement about whether an individual child is at the expected level of development, teachers draw on their knowledge of the child and their own expert professional judgement. This is sufficient evidence to assess a child's individual level of development in relation to each of the ELGs.

Communication and Language

ELG: Listening, Attention and Understanding

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions.
- Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding.
- Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers.

ELG: Speaking

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary.
- Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.
- Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

ELG: Self-Regulation

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Show an understanding of their own feelings and those of others, and begin to regulate their behaviour accordingly.
- Set and work towards simple goals, being able to wait for what they want and control their immediate impulses when appropriate
- Give focused attention to what the teacher says, responding appropriately even when engaged in activity, and show an ability to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions.

ELG: Managing Self

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Be confident to try new activities and show independence, resilience and perseverance in the face of challenge.
- Explain the reasons for rules, know right from wrong and try to behave accordingly.
- Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices.

ELG: Building Relationships

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Work and play cooperatively and take turns with others.
- Form positive attachments to adults and friendships with peers.
- Show sensitivity to their own and to others' needs.

Physical Development

ELG: Gross Motor Skills

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others.
- Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing.
- Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing.

ELG: Fine Motor Skills

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases.

- Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paint brushes and cutlery.
- Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.

Literacy

ELG: Comprehension

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.
- Anticipate – where appropriate – key events in stories.
- Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role-play.

ELG: Word Reading

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Say a sound for each letter in the alphabet and at least 10 digraphs.
- Read words consistent with their phonic knowledge by sound-blending.
- Read aloud simple sentences and books that are consistent with their phonic knowledge, including some common exception words.

ELG: Writing

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Write recognisable letters, most of which are correctly formed.
- Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters.
- Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.

Mathematics

ELG: Number

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Have a deep understanding of number to 10, including the composition of each number.
- Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 5.
- Automatically recall (without reference to rhymes, counting or other aids) number bonds up to 5 (including subtraction facts) and some number bonds to 10,

including double facts.

ELG: Numerical Patterns

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Verbally count beyond 20, recognising the pattern of the counting system.
- Compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, recognising when one quantity is greater than, less than or the same as the other quantity.
- Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10, including evens and odds, double facts and how quantities can be distributed equally.

Understanding the World

ELG: Past and Present

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society.
- Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
- Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling.

ELG: People, Culture and Communities

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps.
- Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
- Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and – when appropriate – maps.

ELG: The Natural World

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.
- Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
- Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

Expressive Arts and Design

ELG: Creating with Materials

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function.
- Share their creations, explaining the process they have used.
- Make use of props and materials when role playing characters in narratives and stories.

ELG: Being Imaginative and Expressive

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher.
- Sing a range of well-known nursery rhymes and songs.
- Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others, and – when appropriate – try to move in time with music.

Our Personalised Approach

Most children begin their Early Years journey at our pre-school before moving to reception. Our Pre-school can have up to 14 registered at a time and our PAN in Reception is 7 children. Our Pre-school operates in an Early Years unit which is a shared learning environment with our Reception children, which allows for a shared environment enabled for continuous provision and adult led activities. The children have access to the school grounds throughout the day, and have their own outdoor environment set up to enhance the continuous provision. Pre-school and Reception work closely together and are planned for at their own level of development. We are very lucky as a small village school to know the children really well and we are able to challenge children at an appropriate age and stage for each child.

We provide children with a balance of teacher led and child led activities, whilst valuing the importance of purposeful play. Throughout their time in our Early Years, children have access to enriching and enabling environments which set them up to reach their full potential as independent and curious learners. Our Pre-school and Reception classes are located within our small, yet mighty setting in Hennock. As a school and within our Early Years we utilise our fantastic surroundings with experiences within the community. These experiences are built into our curriculum, for example termly educational visits for Reception and by termly trips for Preschool.

In order to assess impact - a guide

Assessment and Monitoring procedures

- Baseline – A baseline assessment is carried out within the first six weeks for pupils in Reception as an on-entry assessment of pupil attainment
- Weekly and termly discussions on children's progress as an Early Years team. Professional discussion on children's progress and journal inline with our EY progression document, ensure we are able to focus in on children's individual next steps

- Regular Assessments in line with our Synthetic phonics programme
- Play based checkpoints each unit within our White Rose Maths programme
- EYFSP – The summative ‘best fit’ judgement against the ELG’s at the end of the Reception year

Ways which we record children’s work to ensure coverage and share a learning journey

- Tapestry – an online *journal* to help record all the learning and fun of children's early years education.
- Observation notes – made by teacher/teaching assistant during specific activities/free play.
- Floor books to celebrate class learning in RE and PSHE
- Preschool learning books that are a record of children’s learning journey within the setting.
- Reception children having learning books for English, Maths, Phonics and Handwriting.

Building Strong Foundations

Ways in which we are building strong foundations for our children:

- **Communication Language and Literacy-** We use the Book Buds program as an inspirational starting point for our preplanned learning opportunities, these then inform our Continuous Provision ideas which can then be accessed and extended independently by children, with support from their adults through meaningful interactions. Children are encouraged during all parts of the day to express themselves in a safe and friendly way. Adults model and will repeat phrases back to children to inform their language learning as appropriate. During Book Buds sessions children are given discreet teacher taught opportunities to explore a range of books including non-fiction, fiction and poem and rhyming books specifically learning about; new vocabulary, story language and sentence formations and structures. Whilst Preschool children access this on an informal predominantly oral way, our Reception children then take this further into their English learning.
- **Physical Development-** Specific Hall sessions to explore gross motor movements within a safe and fun environment, using large mats and equipment. Early Years specific lessons in Physical Education taught by Mr Pierce our Trust specialist PE teacher, who plans specific lessons for our Early Years and Reception children focusing in on fundamental skills and upskilling teachers to be able to effectively teach and move on learning through physically age-appropriate skills. Regular access to our own adventure playground to be able to develop skills in climbing, balancing and hanging.
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development-** We follow age- appropriate Jigsaw scheme that ensures children learn and develop fundamental skills in Personal, social and emotional development. These skills are then extended and enhanced throughout our continuous provision.
- **Maths-** Children are taught fundamental maths skills and language by using an age-appropriate White Rose Programme of learning. Each area of learning is taught

through small steps which are introduced and taught in a play-based hands-on way. Pre-school children are given opportunities to explore in small groups or individually as appropriate. Reception children are taught in a short discreet learning session which has a linked activity that is then available to explore in continuous provision. At the end of each Reception unit there is a checkpoint to assess what the children have learned and gaps are addressed as appropriate for individuals or small groups.

- **Reading-** Children in Preschool are introduced to the daily Pre-phonics section of the Bug Club synthetic phonics programme. They also explore daily access to nursery rhymes. Reception children build on this knowledge through the Reception phase of the Bug Club scheme which is taught through teacher led discreet daily phonics lessons. They read books that are matched to their phonics ability and or learning. The scheme is carefully planned and children are regularly assessed to ensure timely progress throughout their Reception year.
- **Writing and Handwriting-** at Hennock we practice pre-writing skills as part of our Letterjoin handwriting scheme. This scheme teaches children about good writing posture and correct pencil grips as well as pre-writing patterns and then letters and words. Children have daily opportunities to explore fine motor skill development through Dough Gym (Play Dough Emily) activities. Activities are progressive and taught in a systematic way to ensure progress. Preschool children access the initial FMS learning together with Reception but are then encouraged to explore the movement pattern or letter through their play. At this point Reception children would explore the movement pattern or letter further by using a pencil or stage appropriate equipment.
- **Understanding of the World-** RE- Preschool and Reception children are taught age- appropriate discreet EY sessions in RE from the NATRE program. Children are taught about a range of religions, stories and celebrations and have a grounding in how people and communities can be the same and different from one another. The Reception children have discreet taught input in Science (every term), Geography and History (alternative terms) alongside their KS1 colleagues teaching core knowledge and skills. They then have a focused adult led task based on the Maestro Cornerstones Curriculum, which builds on the initial learning and later forms part of the continuous provision; to be revisited, practised or extended. Preschool pupils also have access to this learning within the provision.
- **Art and Design-** The Reception children have discreet taught inputs in Art and DT (alternative terms) alongside their KS1 colleagues teaching core knowledge and skills. They then have a focused adult led task based on the Maestro Cornerstones Curriculum, which builds on the initial learning and later forms part of the continuous provision; to be revisited, practised or extended. Preschool pupils also have access to this learning within the provision. Reception access discreet taught sessions using the Charanga music scheme which teaches related skills and knowledge. There is also daily access to musical instruments and Nursery Rhymes during outside play for both Pre-school and Reception children.