



Bursley Academy

Reception Parent Handbook

2026-2027

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Welcome from EYFS

We would like to welcome you and your child to Bursley Academy Early Years Foundation Stage. We are delighted that you will be joining us and we are excited to begin this journey together. Starting Nursery or Reception is a big milestone, and we understand that it can bring a mix of excitement and questions for both children and families.

This booklet has been put together to give you all the key information you need about your child starting school with us. At the heart of everything we do is a commitment to creating a warm, caring, and stimulating environment where every child feels safe, valued, and encouraged to explore and learn through play. We recognise that every child is unique, and we work closely with you to ensure their individual needs are supported from the very beginning.

We believe that strong partnerships with parents and carers are key to a happy and successful start. We hope this booklet answers many of your questions, but please remember that our team is always here if you'd like to talk or need any further support.

We are really looking forward to welcoming you and your child to our Bursley family.

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), is how the DfE (Department for Education) and early years professionals describe the time in your child's life between birth and age 5.

This is a very important stage as it prepares them for their future learning and successes.

Nurseries, pre-schools, reception classes and child minders registered to deliver the EYFS must follow a legal document called the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

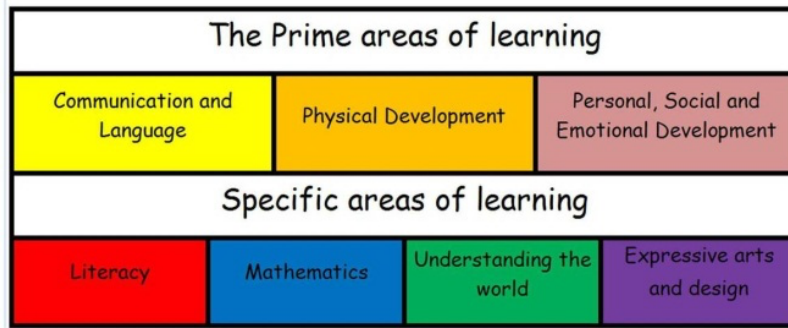
What is the EYFS Framework?

The EYFS Framework exists to support all professionals working in the EYFS to help your child.

It sets out:

- The legal welfare requirements that everyone must follow to keep your child safe and promote their welfare
- The 7 areas of learning and development which guide professionals' engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge
- Assessments that will tell you about your child's progress through the EYFS
- Expected levels that your child should reach at the end of the reception year; these expectations are called the "Early Learning Goals (ELGs)"

Areas of Learning



There are 3 prime areas of learning:

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

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas:

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

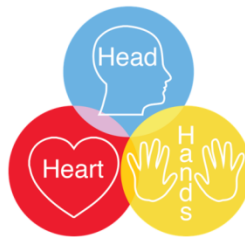
Whole School Curriculum Approach

The curriculum at Bursley Academy is carefully designed to meet the needs of all learners.

It balances a drive for academic excellence alongside a broad range of experiences which, excite, enthuse and engage pupils both in their learning within the academy and their lifelong learning.

We focus on key skills for learning as well as developing a deep knowledge base for pupils in all areas of the curriculum.

Carefully planned activities are designed to allow children to learn, practice and apply their learning in a range of different ways, which is relevant and purposeful.



The Curriculum is based on three key areas:

Head:

The development of a deep and broad knowledge and skills base that build over time in all areas of the curriculum.

Heart:

The development of the whole pupil, ensuring good mental health, citizenship, resilience, independence and confidence as well as developing emotionally literate pupils.

Hands:

Practical and hands on learning experiences to help embed learning and develop a deeper understanding of how learning can be applied.

The Reception Team

Miss Fallows

Nursery Teacher

EYFS Lead

Forest School Lead (EYFS)



Reception Teacher

Miss Bessey



Miss Manteghi

Reception Teacher

Art Lead



Miss Brookes

Teaching Assistant



Reception Information

Welcome & Explore Evening

We would love to invite you to our **Starting School: Open Classroom Evening** on Wednesday 10th June 5-6pm

This is a great opportunity to visit the classroom, meet the team, and find out more about your child's start in Nursery/Reception. You are welcome to drop in at any time between 5:00pm and 6:00pm and stay for as long or as little as you like.

During the session, you can:

- Look around the learning environment (indoors & outdoors)
- Meet your child's teachers and key staff
- Ask any questions you may have
- Meet with the office team to discuss any paperwork queries
- Find out more about daily routines and what to expect

We hope this relaxed, informal session will help you and your child feel confident and excited about starting with us.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Settling into Reception – Stay & Play for our children who don't currently attend our Nursery

Monday 15th June – 3:30pm-4pm

Monday 22nd June 3:30pm-4pm

Monday 29th June 3:30pm-4pm

Prior to your child starting Bursley, there are 'stay and play' sessions which parents are invited to attend with their child to help with this transition process. These sessions are invaluable in helping your child to settle into a new environment and meet the staff. We aim to build strong, positive relationships with the children and their families. The Reception team will also arrange a visit to your child's current nursery or have a conversation with you about your child if they do not attend any other settings. This helps to find out a little more about your child so we can meet their needs and help them to settle quickly into the class.

Our stay and play sessions are not for children who already attend our Nursery, as they will have timetabled sessions during the school day.

A Day in the Life of a Reception Child

School gates open for drop off 8:45am-9am

School day ends: 3:15pm

First the children will come into school, find their peg and hang their coat and bag on it. As they are waiting for their friends to arrive they will complete a morning task, which we refer to as a 'busy job' on whiteboards practising their writing skills. Next, they will sit as a group, sing the 'Good Morning Song' and we will find out who is in school that day by doing the register altogether. After that they get busy. Getting busy means having lots of fun! In Reception we learn through play and as the year goes on we become more structured ready for the transition into year 1. The children have the opportunity to choose where they want to learn in our well-planned areas both inside and out. We have a 'story of the week' that we link most of the activities in the classroom to. They have lots of activities to choose from including role play, mark making, dough, creative, construction, reading corner, sand, water, iPads, fine motor activities, musical instruments, small world just to name a few. The children will take part in a maths and phonics session each day, which gets longer as the year progresses. They will also have a guided reading session where the children will share and read a story, which they will then bring home as their reading book. They also sit and eat a healthy snack (provided from home in the morning and fruit is provided by school for afternoon snack) during the session and will have the opportunity to listen to a story whilst they eat. At 11:45am the children go to the hall for their lunch. The afternoon session is time for more choosing and some focused work too (depending on the topic for the week).

Medical Conditions

It is imperative that we know about any medical conditions or food intolerances that your child presents with. In the event that your child requires medication (e.g. antibiotics) a form needs to be completed at the school office for it to be administered during the school day. Please note, all medication must be provided in its original container/packaging and children must have been given the first dose of the medication by the parent prior to the school administering any further doses. This is to ensure that both parents and school staff are made aware of any reactions.

In the event that your child has an ongoing medical condition (e.g. asthma), we will, in conjunction with parents, produce a Medical Care Plan specific to your child and their needs. Paperwork for food intolerances will be provided to parent to complete by our catering supplier to ensure that our little ones with allergies have bespoke menus to cater for their dietary requirements.

Uniform

For children in Early Years:

- Navy blue cardigan or jumper (with or without the school logo)
- White shirt
- Tie
- Grey trousers, skirt, pinafore
- Tight-navy blue or grey
- Summer dress-blue
- Black school shoes

PE kit:

- Plain navy hoody
- Plain White t-shirt
- Plain Navy joggers or leggings
- Trainers

School uniform can be purchased from most leading supermarkets and Bursley badged/logo items are available from [Clive Marks](#) or [Smart School Uniform](#)

Spare clothes

All children in Reception require a set of spare clothes to stay in school at all times. This must include socks, pants, joggers/leggings, t-shirt and a jumper. Please follow the school colour scheme of navy and white.

Other items

- Your child will also need a pair of wellies and ideally a puddle suit or waterproof trousers for exploring the weather outside.
- A bookbag
- A lunchbox if they are staying for lunch and a water bottle

All items must be labelled with your child's name

Additional Costs

When & how do I pay?

We are a cashless school and operate a payment system called ParentPay. ParentPay letters enabling you to activate your child's account will be sent home during the first week of school. The payment system is used for trips, performance tickets and events (e.g. school disco). (Parents without the use of the internet can receive a printed barcode, which they can use to pay at a PayPoint centre like Bradwell Co-op or Riceyman News.)

Bursley Way Out of School Club (BWOOSC)

Bursley Academy has an on-site club offering wrap around care to pupils. The staff who work for BWOOSC also work here at Bursley throughout the school, so there will always be a familiar face for your child.

BWOOSC offer a morning, afternoon and holiday club. Once your child has been registered via the club's online booking system, booking is simple, easy and flexible.

Our friendly Wraparound service is open from 7:30am – 6:00pm every day. The team run lots of indoor and outdoor activities, with a mix of structured and free choice. Please note that they do not have the facility to provide food and your child will therefore need to bring in snacks if required and during holiday times they would need a packed lunch.

Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium is extra funding that is available to support disadvantaged school aged pupils, helping to improve their educational outcome.

Although all children in infant classes (Reception, Year 1 or Year 2) will receive a free school meal (providing the Government continues to fund this), it is still important that you apply if you might be eligible. This is because, if your child is eligible, the school will receive additional funding called Pupil Premium of around £1,480 per pupil which is used to support their education as needed. It is up to the school how this money is spent, but this can add up to a lot of additional funding and can be used to really help children to achieve well as they grow older. It is important to apply before your child returns to or starts school with us in September.

Economic criteria:

- Income support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (Provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit and have net annual household earnings below £7,400 (this means your take home pay from any paid employment, after Income Tax and NI contributions have been deducted).

Non-economic criteria:

In addition, a child will be eligible if they:

- have been looked after by the local authority for at least one day
- have been adopted from care
- have left care through special guardianship; and
- are subject to a child arrangement order

We ask that all parents complete the Link2ICT application as this information is used in future years to automatically check for 'Free School Meal' eligibility.

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/link2ict>

If you believe your circumstances have changed throughout the year please do not hesitate to contact the office to discuss your entitlement.

Dropping off and Collecting your Child from Reception

The EYFS entrance & exit is via the main entrance down the main drive. The Reception school day starts at 8:45, the teacher will come out to greet the children at the gate. The children come into school by themselves and find their pegs. Staff from the Reception team will be in the classroom to assist your child. The gate will close shortly after 9:00; if you are late, please bring your child to the main office. Pickup is from the same place at 3:15pm.

Absence and Illness

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school when they're unwell. Please contact the school office or email the class teacher to report your child's absence.

The below guidelines are taken from the NHS website:

Coughs and colds

It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. But if they have a fever, keep them off school until the fever goes.

Vomiting and diarrhea

Children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school for 48 hours after their last episode.

High temperature

If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.

Chickenpox

If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Head lice and nits

There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice. Please treat your child and inform the Reception team, so they can inform other parents to check their child's hair and prevent it from spreading.

A Snap Shot into Life at Bursley





Thank you for choosing Bursley Academy for your child's school.

We very much look forward to welcoming you and your child to our Bursley Family.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.