

The Ribblesdale Federation of Schools



Early Years

Safeguarding & Welfare Policy

Updated to reflect September 2025 Safeguarding Review

Document Status			
Date of policy creation/review	Reasons for review	Date of adoption by the Governing Board	Date of next review
October 2023	Cycle of Review	27.11.26	September 2024
January 2026	Changes to the safeguarding and welfare requirements	2.2.26	September 2026
Signed and dated: 2.2.26			
Executive Headteacher	C. Maddock	Chair of Governors	Anna Bradley

The Ribblesdale Federation of Schools

EYFS Policy

Aims

This policy aims to ensure:

- That children access a broad and balanced curriculum that gives them the broad range of knowledge and skills needed for good progress through school and life
- Quality and consistency in teaching and learning so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind
- A close working partnership between staff and parents and/or carers
- Every child is included and supported through equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice

Legislation

This policy is based on requirements set out in the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) that applies from November 2024.

Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them. We ensure that we take all the necessary steps to keep children safe and well.

We will ensure that we will safeguard children; ensure the suitability of adults who have contact with children; promote good health; manage behaviour and maintain records, policies and procedures.

Child Protection

This is covered in the whole school Child Protection Policy.

Mobile Phone and Smart Technology

In line with the new EYFS Statutory Framework 2024- the school holds its own policy for mobile phone and smart technology use. In summary, Classroom based staff are permitted to take their mobile/smart phones into the classroom but they should be switched off/put on silent mode and put away in a cupboard/filing cabinet or stored safely and appropriately. Smart watches can be worn but they should be switched off or set to "silent mode" during lesson times. Bluetooth or other forms of communication, such as "airdrop" should be hidden or disabled during lesson times. Please refer to the policy for further details and information.

Staff qualifications, training, support and skills (p26)

The daily experience of children in early years settings and the overall quality of provision depends on all practitioners having appropriate qualifications, training, skills, knowledge, and a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Induction training must include information about emergency evacuation procedures, safeguarding, child protection and health and safety issues. At least one person who has a current paediatric first aid certificate (PFA) must be on the premises and available at all times when children are present, and must accompany children on outings. The certificate must be for a full course consistent with the criteria set out in Annex A.

Key Person (p27)

Each child must be assigned a key person. Their role is to help ensure that every child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs to help the child become familiar with the setting, offer a settled relationship for the child and build a relationship with their parents.

Staff child ratios (p28)

For children aged three and over in maintained nursery schools and nursery classes in maintained schools;

- There must be at least one member of staff for every 13 children.
- At least one member of staff must be a school teacher as defined by section 22 of the Education Act 2002.
- At least one member of staff must hold an approved Level 3 qualification.

Reception classes in maintained schools and academies are subject to infant class size legislation. Regulations 2012 limit the size of infant classes to 30 pupils per school teacher while an ordinary teaching session is conducted. 'School teachers' do not include teaching assistants or other support staff. Consequently, in an ordinary teaching session, a school must employ sufficient school teachers to enable it to teach its infant classes in groups of no more than 30 per school teacher. Some schools may choose to mix their reception classes with groups of younger children (nursery children) in which they must determine ratios within mixed groups, guided by all relevant ratio requirements and by the needs of individual children within group. In exercising this discretion, the school must comply with the statutory requirements relating to the education of children of compulsory school agenda infant class sizes. As per the Early Years Qualification Requirements and Standards document January 2024 we ensure our Early years staff, including those who cover the class, hold the relevant qualifications to the appropriate standard as defined in the DfE document stated above. This is to ensure all staff included in the staff:child ratios are qualified to do so, and deemed professionally knowledgeable and capable within the EYFS.

Health (p33)

We promote the good health, including oral health, of children attending the setting. We have a procedure, discussed with parents and/or carers for responding to children who are ill or infectious, we take necessary steps to prevent the spread of infection, and take appropriate action if children are ill.

We have and implement a policy, and procedures, for administering medicines. We have systems for obtaining information about a child's needs for medicine, and for keeping this information up to date. We provide training for staff where the administration of medicine requires medical or technical knowledge. Prescription medicines will not be administered unless they have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist or nurse or pharmacist. Medicines containing aspirin should only be given if prescribed by a doctor.

Medicines (both prescription and non-prescription) will only be administered to a child where written permission for that particular medicine has been obtained from the child's parent/carer. We keep a written record each time medicine is administered to a child, and we inform the child's parents on the same day, or as soon as reasonably possible.

Food and Drink (p33)

We ensure that meals, snacks and drinks will be healthy, balanced and nutritious. Before a child starts school, we obtain information about any special dietary requirements, preferences and food allergies that the child may have, and any special health requirements. We will record and act on information from parents and carers about a child's dietary needs.

Fresh drinking water is available and accessible to children at all times.

Accident or injury (p34)

We ensure that there is a first aid box accessible at all times with appropriate content for use with children. We keep a written record of accidents and injuries and first aid treatment. We inform parents and/or carers of any accident or injury sustained by the child on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable to do so, and of any first aid given. Parents are provided with an accident slip at the end of the day to detail any accidents through the day.

First of the Month checks:

At the onset of each month, an early year's specific check takes place. This covers areas of safeguarding such as food, hygiene, intimate care changing, outdoor education area/resources and indoor resources, as well as any new hazards. These are then recorded and addressed.

Information for parents and carers (p39)

We will make the following information available to parents and/or carers;

- How the EYFS is being delivered in the setting, and how parents and carers can access more information.
- The range and type of activities and experiences provided for children, the daily routines of the setting, and how parents and carers can share the learning at home.
- Curriculum maps.
- How the setting supports children with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Foods and drinks provided for children.
- Staffing in the setting; the name of their child's key person and their role.

Food safety advice for children aged 5 and under.

The EYFS Framework requires providers to take all necessary steps to keep children safe and well. Tragically, a child dies in the UK every month from choking and hundreds more require hospital treatment. It can happen quickly and it can happen to anyone.

How to reduce the risk of choking – food preparation;

- Remove any stones and pips from fruit before serving.
- Cut small round fruit like grapes, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, lengthways and into quarters.
- Cut large fruit like melon, and hard fruit like raw apple and carrot into slices instead of small chunks.
- Do not offer raisins as a snack – although these can be chopped up as part of meal.
- Sausages should be avoided due to their high salt content, but if offered to children, these should be cut into thin strips rather than chunks and the skin should be removed.
- Do not give whole nuts or seeds to children under 5 years old.
- Cut cheese into strips rather than chunks.
- Do not give popcorn as a snack.
- Do not give children marshmallows or jelly cubes from a packet.

- Do not give children hard sweets.

Supervision

- Young children should never be left alone while they are eating, and staff should be familiar with paediatric first aid advice about choking in children.

Food and Drinks to avoid

Drinks

Provide only fresh tap water and plain milk for children to drink. Fruit juice, smoothies, squash, fizzy drinks and flavoured milk, even when diluted, contain lots of sugar and can cause tooth decay. These drinks can fill children up so they are not hungry for healthier food.

When offering dairy alternatives to cow's milk;

- Unsweetened, calcium-fortified, plant based drinks (such as soya, oat and almond drinks) should be avoided before 12 months, however a small amount can be used in cooking.
- Do not give children under 5 rice milk to drink because of the level of arsenic they contain.

Foods to avoid up to 5 years old

- **Nuts** – especially peanuts, can cause severe allergic reactions in some children and all settings should have an allergy plan in place. Whole nuts, peanuts and seeds should not be given to children under 5 years old as they pose a choking risk.
- **Raw eggs** – or food containing partially cooked eggs, for example uncooked cake mixture and runny boiled eggs (unless they have the red lion stamp or you see the words 'British Lion quality.'
- **Foods high in salt** – sausages, bacon, crackers, crisps, ready meals and takeaways.
- **Sugar** – both in sugary snacks and by not adding sugar to food.
- **Foods high in saturated fat** – such as biscuits, crisps and cakes.
- **Fresh pate** – (meat, fish or vegetable-based) to reduce the risk of food poisoning)

Unpasteurised milk, milk drinks and cheese – mould ripened cheese and soft blue-veined cheese, to reduce the risk of food poisoning. However, these cheeses can be used as part of a cooked recipe, as listeria is killed by cooking.

- **Shark, swordfish and marlin** – as levels of mercury in these fish can affect a child's developing nervous system.
- **Raw shellfish** – to reduce the risk of food poisoning.

Allergies

As part of the EYFS framework (2024) schools must work closely with families to support children's special dietary requirements – including food allergies and intolerances – before they attend, and record and act on the information provided about children's dietary needs.

There is protocol in place so that this information is made accessible to all staff to ensure that everyone is aware of individual children's allergies and symptoms.

Understanding which allergens are present in every meal and snack that we provide as a school is an important step in providing food which is safe for children with allergies and intolerances. Since 2014, all food businesses, including early years settings, have been required by law to give details about the allergens in the food they provide.

Hygiene

Food should be stored, prepared and presented in a safe and hygienic environment. This is especially important for young children, as they may have a low resistance to food poisoning. It is also really important that children are taught basic hygiene themselves, such as not eating food that has fallen on the floor, and washing their hands with soap and warm water before eating meals or snacks and after going to the toilet or handling animals.

Wash all surfaces for preparing and eating food, especially chopping boards, with hot soapy water. Make sure that all bowls and cutlery are washed in hot, soapy water. Tea towels, kitchen cloths or sponges must be washed regularly as they can harbour germs.

Intimate Care

Children in the early years may have toileting accidents. Staff provide an appropriate and clean area in which to change children. Parents/Carers sign a consent to their child being changed by staff, if needed, and when appropriate will provide nappies and wipes. An intimate care log is recorded and signed by staff.

EYFS Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements – A Checklist

Child Protection and Safeguarding	
There are policies and procedures for safeguarding children in place which covers:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action to be taken where there are safeguarding concerns about a child. • Action to be taken in the event of allegations against staff. • The use of mobile phones and cameras in settings 	
As a federation, we will document how we deliver safeguarding training and how staff are supported to implement safeguarding procedures effectively.	
The new annex to our safeguarding training documentation outlines the minimum safeguarding knowledge and competencies required of early years professionals. This will ensure early years staff receive clear and consistent safeguarding training.	
Whistleblowing - We have created a confidential and supportive environment where concerns about safeguarding practices, misconduct, or policy failures can be raised without fear of retaliation.	
A dedicated safeguarding training annex is used to ensure early years staff receive clear and consistent safeguarding training.	
The policies and procedures are in line with the guidance and procedures of the relevant local safeguarding partners (LSP)	
A staff member has been appointed as the Designated Safeguarding Lead and they provide support, advice and guidance to other staff on an ongoing basis and on any specific safeguarding issue as required.	
The designated safeguarding lead has attended a child protection course that enables them to identify, understand and respond to signs of possible abuse and neglect.	
All staff have received training on the school's safeguarding policies and procedures.	
All staff have up to date knowledge of safeguarding issues, and have received training that enables them to identify signs of possible abuse and neglect at the earliest opportunity, and to respond quickly and appropriately.	
All staff have up to date knowledge of safeguarding policy and procedures.	
The school has regard to the following statutory guidance documents; • Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 • Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 • Prevent Duty Guidance for England and Wales	
Social services and in emergencies, the police – are notified where the school has concerns about children's safety or welfare.	
Ofsted is informed where allegations of serious harm or abuse by staff or	

volunteers are made, and notified of the action taken in respect of the allegations, within 14 days of the allegations being made.	
Staff do not have mobile phones, cameras or any smart technology on their person when in the classrooms and/or working directly with the children as per the Statutory Early years Framework 2024 and the schools own mobile and smart technology policy. All items with such technology are switched off and locked away from children.	
Suitable People	
Systems are in place to ensure that staff and others who have regular contact with children are suitable for their roles (e.g. safer recruitment policies and procedures)	
Staff are told that they are expected to disclose any convictions, cautions, court orders, reprimands and warnings (except protected convictions and cautions) that may affect their suitability to work with children (whether received before or during their employment at the setting).	
Enhanced DBS checks, with barred list checks as appropriate, have been obtained for all individuals aged over 16 and who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work directly with children • Live on the premises; and/or work on the premises (unless they do not work on the premises where the childcare takes place, or do not work there at times when children are present.) 	
Safeguarding policies must explicitly outline procedures for ensuring all staff and volunteers are suitable to work with children.	
An additional criminal records check (or checks, if more than one country) has been carried out for anyone who has lived or worked abroad. .	
Individuals who have not undergone suitability checks are not allowed unsupervised work with children	
Information about staff qualifications, identify checks and vetting processes is recorded including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal records check reference number • Date the check was obtained • Details of who obtained the check 	
A referral is made to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) where a member of staff is dismissed (or would have been, had they not left first) because they have harmed a child or put a child at risk of harm.	
Procedures are in place to ensure that anyone who is disqualified from working in childcare is not employed to work at the setting. *The EYFS framework also refers to individuals being disqualified, because they live with someone who is, but disqualification by association only applies to domestic settings now – for example childminders.	
Appropriate action is taken to ensure the safety of children where information is found that may lead to the disqualification of an employee.	
Ofsted is informed of any significant event (including disqualification) which is likely to affect the suitability of any person who is in regular contact with children on the premises.	
Staff are not under the influence of alcohol or any other substance that may affect their ability to care for children.	

Staff seek medical advice where they are taking medication that may affect their ability to care for children, and are only allowed to work directly with children if medical advice confirms the medication is unlikely to impair their ability to do so.	
Staff medication is securely stored away and out of reach of children at all times.	
Staff Qualifications, Training, Support and Skills	
All staff are treated fairly and equally regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.	
<p>All staff receive induction training which covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency evacuation procedures • Safeguarding and child protection • Health and safety issues 	
Staff are supported to undertake appropriate training and professional development opportunities.	
<p>Arrangements are in place for the supervision of staff working with children and families, which provide opportunities for them to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss any issues, particularly concerning children's development and wellbeing • Identify solutions • Receive coaching to improve their effectiveness 	
<p>Supervision provides support, coaching and training for staff, promotes the interests of the children and fosters a culture of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual support • Teamwork • Continuous improvement • Encouraging confidential discussion of sensitive issues. 	
At least one person with a current paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate is on the premises and available at all times children are present, and accompanies children on outings	
The PFA training is renewed every 3 years and is relevant for workers caring for young children.	
PFA certificates or a list of staff with a current certificate is on display or made available to parents/carers.	
Staff in the EYFS are qualified in line with the requirements set out in the Early years qualification requirements and standards Jan 24 document.	
Staff Ratios	
Students and trainees in early years settings must complete Paediatric First Aid (PFA) training before being included in staff-to child ratios	
Each child is assigned a key person.	
Staffing arrangements meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety.	
Children are adequately supervised and staff are deployed in a way that ensures children's needs are met.	
Parents and carers are informed about staff deployment and, where relevant and practical, are involved in decisions about deployment.	
deployment. Children are always within sight or hearing of staff (and usually within sight and hearing)	

Only those over 17 are included in ratios (though staff working as apprentices in early education who are aged 16 or over can be included in ratios if the provider is satisfied that they are competent and responsible)	
Staff aged under 17 are supervised at all times.	
In reception classes there are never more than 30 children per teacher, except where permitted exceptions apply.	
For maintained nursery schools and nursery classes in maintained schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is at least 1 member of staff for every 13 children. • At least one member of staff is a school teacher • At least one other member of staff holds a full and relevant level 3 qualification. 	
Where there are mixed age groups, ratios are determined in line with relevant ratios and class size requirements and the needs of individual children.	
All staff included in ratios are deemed capable, and hold the relevant qualifications as per the Early years qualification requirements and standards Jan 24 document	
Health	
Good health, including oral health, is promoted.	
Procedures are in place for dealing with children who are ill or infectious.	
Illness/infection procedures are discussed with parents/carers	
Necessary steps are taken to prevent the spread of infection.	
Appropriate action is taken if children are taken ill.	
A policy and procedure for administering medicines, including systems for obtaining and updating information about medical needs are in place	
Where administering medicines requires medical or technical knowledge, training is provided for staff.	
Prescription medicines are not administered unless they have been prescribed for a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist (medicines containing aspirin should only be given if prescribed by a doctor).	
) Medicines (both prescription and non-prescription) are only administered where written permission is obtained from a child's parent or carer to administer that particular medicine	
A written record is kept of each time medicine is administered.	
Where medicine is administered to a child, their parents and carers must be informed on the same day or as soon as possible	
Meals, snacks and drinks are healthy, balanced and nutritious.	
Before a child is admitted to the setting, information about special dietary requirements, preferences, food allergies and special health requirements is obtained.	
Information from parents and carers and about dietary needs is recorded and acted upon.	
Fresh drinking water is available and accessible at all times.	
An area equipped to provide healthy meals, snacks and drinks is provided.	
Suitable facilities for the hygienic preparation of food (including sterilisation equipment where necessary) are provided.	
Staff involved in preparing and handling food have received training in food	

hygiene.	
Ofsted is informed where two or more children have food poisoning within 14 days of the incident.	
A first aid box with contents suitable for use with children is accessible at all times.	
Parents and carers are informed of any accident, injury or first aid treatment on the same day, or as soon as possible.	
Written records of accidents, injuries and first aid treatments are kept.	
Ofsted is notified of any serious accident, illness or injury to, or the death of, any child, and the action taken within 14 days of the incident.	
Local child protection agencies are notified of any serious accident or injury to, or the death of, any child, and any advice from those agencies is acted on.	
Safer Eating	
At least one Paediatric first aid (PFA) trained member of staff is with EYFS children at all times when they are eating.	
EYFS pupils in before and after school provision – staff member trained on responding to choking	
Practitioners should sit facing the children; this allows for early intervention in the case of choking or allergic reactions. It also allows the practitioner to watch out for children swapping food.	
All fruit for snack time, food at BSC and ASC as well as food for school meals is prepared (as per guidelines) in a way to minimise choking.	
EYFS staff – training on how to respond to choking	
All EYFS pupils with food allergies or intolerance will have an individual Health Care Plan. This will be shared with all staff. This will be in place BEFORE the child attends the federation.	
Choking incidents must be recorded and the parents / carer made aware. As with any near miss incident, these should be reviewed regularly to identify any common issues that need to be addressed.	
Attendance	
Follow up on prolonged or unexplained child absences to ensure that children are safe.	
Maintain at least two emergency contacts in the event of an absence or emergency.	
Behaviour	
Written records of physical intervention are kept.	
Parents and carers are informed of any physical intervention on the same day, or as soon as possible.	
Corporal punishment and any other punishment that could adversely affect a child's wellbeing is never used or threatened.	
Safety & Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment	
Health and Safety legislation is complied with, including fire safety and hygiene requirements.	
Emergency evacuation procedures are in place.	
Appropriate fire detection and control equipment is in place and in working order (e.g. fire alarms, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers)	

Fire exits are clearly identifiable, and fire doors are free from obstruction and can be opened easily from the inside.	
Smoking is prohibited in the premises.	
Staff do not vape or use e-cigarettes when children are present.	
The following space requirements are adhered to: Children aged 3 to 5 years: 2.3 m ² per child.	
Access to an outdoor play area is provided, or outdoor activities are provided on a daily basis.	
Legal requirements under the Equality Act 2010 are adhered to, including the duty to make reasonable adjustments for those with disabilities.	
An adequate number of toilets and hand basins is available.	
Separate toilet facilities for children and adults are available	
Hygienic nappy changing facilities are available.	
Clean towels, spare clothes and other necessary items are always available	
An area where staff may talk to parents and carers confidentially is available.	
Children are only released to their parents or carers, or to individuals who have been approved by their parents and carers.	
Children do not leave the premises unsupervised.	
Steps are taken to prevent unauthorised individuals entering the premises.	
An agreed procedure for checking the identity of visitors is in place.	
All reasonable steps are taken to ensure staff and children are not exposed to risks, and the setting can demonstrate how risks are managed.	
Where necessary, written risk assessments are made. These should identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis, when and by whom those aspects will be checked, and how the risk will be removed or minimised.	
On outings, any potential risks or hazards are assessed and steps are taken to remove, minimise and manage them. The risk assessment includes consideration of adult to child ratios.	
Vehicles used to transport children, and the driver(s) of those vehicles, are adequately insured.	
Special Educational Needs	
Arrangements are in place to support children with SEN and disabilities	
The Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice is followed.	
An SEN co-ordinator has been identified.	
Information and Record Keeping	
Records are maintained and are easily accessible and available.	
A regular two-way flow of information between the school and parents or carers and between providers, is maintained.	
Information is shared with other professionals, the police, social services and Ofsted, as appropriate.	
Parents' and carers' comments are incorporated into children's records upon request.	
Confidential records are held securely and only accessible to those who have a right or professional need to see them.	

The provider is aware of their duties under the Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act.	
All staff understand the need to protect the privacy of children and the legal requirements that exist to ensure confidentiality.	
Parents and carers are given access to their child's records (provided no legal exemptions apply)	
Records relating to individual children are retained for a reasonable period of time after they have left the provision.	
<p>The following information is recorded for each child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full name Date of birth • Name and address of each known parent or carer • Information about any other person who has parental responsibility • Which parent(s) or carer(s) the child normally lives with • Emergency contact details for parents and carers 	
<p>The following information is made available to parents and carers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the EYFS is being delivered, and how parents/carers can access more information What activities and experiences are provided • The daily schedule/routines • How parents can share learning at home • How children with SEN or disabilities are supported • What food and drinks are provided • Details of policies and procedures, including those for late collection and missing children • Staffing arrangements • Name of the child's key worker and their role • Telephone number for parents and carers to contact in an emergency 	
A written procedure for dealing with concerns and complaints is in place.	
Written records of all complaints and their outcomes are kept.	
Written complaints relating to EYFS requirements are always investigated.	
Complainants are notified of the outcomes of the investigation within 28 days of receipt of the complaint.	
The record of complaints is made available to Ofsted on request.	
Parents are given information about how to contact Ofsted if they believe the EYFS requirements are not being met.	
Parents and carers are notified if the provider becomes aware that the setting is being inspected by Ofsted.	
A copy of the Ofsted inspection report is sent to parents and carers.	