The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards for learning, development and care of children from birth to 5 years old.

All schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers must follow the EYFS.

The EYFS framework is the core document for all professionals working in the foundation years. It supports an integrated approach to learning and care.

It provides all professionals a set of common principles and commitments to deliver quality early years education and childcare experiences to all children.

The EYFS is based on four guiding principles:

- That every child is unique
- That every child can learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships
- That children learn best in enabling environments
- That children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates

Children will play for long periods inside and outside, during this time practitioners will carefully facilitate their play to move their development on to the next stage. They will make observations and plan their next steps; this is often in the moment. This could be a skill, interest or an area of development such as language.

The EYFS recommends a balance of child initiated and adult initiated learning therefore there will be times when adults initiate learning for example, small group times, story time, circle time and one to one reading.