

Ashchurch Primary School
Early Years Transition Policy March 2015

At Ashchurch Primary School we endeavour to ensure a smooth transition for pupils between pre-school and the Reception class and also between EYFS and Key Stage 1. Children and parents/carers need to feel secure and confident to face the challenge of starting school and the significant changes as they progress through their school life. We recognise that children are vulnerable at stages of transition. We implement a range of strategies and activities to ensure a smooth and happy transition.

Aims

To provide a smooth transfer from home or Playgroup to Reception for both pupils and their parents/carers

- To ensure that the children's emotional well being is a priority
- To ensure good communication between staff, parents and pupils
- To raise parents' awareness of school routines and how to support their child at school
- To provide a smooth and positive transition between Reception and Key Stage 1 and to ensure that the EYFS assessment information is effectively communicated

Reception

The school liaises with the local pre-schools and playgroups. The intake for reception is 19. The teaching staff endeavour to visit all children in their pre-school setting to see them in the environment to which they are used to. Children's needs and levels of development are discussed with the pre-school settings. Children who attend Ashchurch playgroup attend lunch club for the last few weeks of term with Ruth and Sam in the main school hall one lunchtime per week.

A Reception information meeting is held in the summer term prior to the children starting school. Again, practical information is given to parents/carers as well as suggestions as to how they can help their child. There are also "stay and play" sessions for those children starting school in September where the adults bring their child and stay to familiarize both themselves and their child with their new classroom and class mates and parents.

Children start school using a staggered entry system according to their ages. Children come into school for a whole day to allow them to get used to the routine of the day. The children are split into small groups of approximately seven children for the settling in period. Individual needs are considered and children may attend school on a part-time basis if it is more appropriate.

Initially, children will not join in with whole school assemblies until they are all in full time and properly settled. All reception children will eat lunch in the main hall with the hot lunch children. Children will have milk and snack in the classroom before playtime. During playtime they will be supported by Mrs Greening, the morning TA for reception.

Transition from Reception into Key Stage 1

We recognise that all children are unique and reach different stages of development at different times. Entry into Key Stage 1 is, therefore, an important transition. There are a number of strategies to ensure that the move from Reception into Key Stage 1 is a smooth and happy one for the children.

The following strategies are embedded in order to ease transition:

- During the last term children are encouraged to take their snacks out onto the playground at playtime.
- Circle time discussions about moving to Year 1
- Discussion about children between the EYFS and KS1 teachers.

In order to further improve our transition arrangements the following strategies will be implemented:

- A whole school transition morning in July
- The PE teacher Mr Rickaby teaches PE across the school.
- Mrs Giles, one of the year one teaching TA's is a class TA in EYFS in the afternoon.
- Mrs Greening covers PPA time for both EYFS and KS1 TA's
- When moving into year one, children who have a sibling starting in EYFS or who already have a sibling in Emerald class, staff will ensure these children, where possible, remain in separate classes. This strategy will be applied first.
- Where there are no siblings to consider, the oldest children in the EYFS cohort will become part of the Emerald Class registration group
- Where there are no siblings to consider, the youngest children in the EYFS cohort will remain in the registration group for Diamond Class.

The timetable for the first half of the Autumn term will be devised by the Year One team with support from the Foundation Stage Leader and the Key Stage 1 Leader jointly, in order to facilitate individual needs and to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

This policy will be reviewed in 2017

Nikki Hewitt (EYFS Teacher)

Spring term 2015