

A place to learn where everyone feels welcome;
based on love, wisdom, and respect.



EYFS Policy

Approved by Governors:	September 2025
Review Date:	September 2026

Lower Peover CE Primary School is committed to providing high-quality Early Years education in a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment where every child can thrive. We are guided by the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework** and adhere to its latest updates, which came into effect on 1st September 2025. This policy ensures compliance with the revised EYFS guidelines, prioritizing safeguarding, health, and well-being while supporting all areas of children's development.

Aims

At Lower Peover CE Primary School, we aim to:

- Ensure that every child receives the highest standard of early years education within a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment.
- Safeguard children's physical and emotional well-being, including the protection of their privacy and dignity during intimate care routines.
- Implement stronger safeguarding practices, including safer recruitment, whistleblowing procedures, child absences follow-up, and safeguarding training.
- Support children's communication, social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development.
- Foster partnerships with parents and carers to support children's overall growth.
- Ensure a consistent and up-to-date approach to safer eating practices, including appropriate supervision and risk management during mealtimes.

Key Updates to the EYFS Framework (September 2025)

As of 1st September 2025, the following key updates to the EYFS guidelines are in place:

Enhanced Safeguarding Protocols

The EYFS now requires more robust procedures in safeguarding areas such as recruitment, child absences, and whistleblowing:

Safer Recruitment: All recruitment processes must follow safer recruitment guidelines, including verified references, background checks, and prompt follow-up on any discrepancies or concerns. Only staff with full clearance and verified references will be employed.

Child Absence Follow-up: A prompt and thorough follow-up on any unexplained absences, with immediate contact with parents/carers on the first day of absence. If no contact is made, further safeguarding checks will be initiated.

Whistleblowing Procedures: Clear whistleblowing procedures are in place to enable staff to report concerns about safeguarding or practice issues confidentially. Staff are encouraged to report any concerns immediately through designated channels.

Safeguarding Training Delivery

Safeguarding and Child Protection Training: All staff must receive comprehensive and ongoing safeguarding training. This includes training on identifying signs of abuse, handling disclosures, and how to respond appropriately.

Annual Training: Staff must undergo safeguarding updates each year, with any new legislation or policy changes communicated promptly.

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL): The School has dedicated staff trained in safeguarding, including a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy DSLs, who are always available for support and guidance.

Safer Eating Practices

The updated EYFS framework introduces clear guidelines for safer eating practices:

- **Supervision During Mealtimes:** Staff will be present at all times during mealtimes to support children with eating safely, especially when eating foods that present choking

hazards (e.g., grapes, hard foods). A Paediatric First Aid Trainer will always be available during mealtimes to provide immediate assistance in the event of an emergency.

- **Allergy Management:** Staff will ensure that they are aware of and adhere to any individual child allergy plans. Mealtimes will be organized to prevent cross-contamination.
- **Dignity and Privacy:** Children's dignity will always be respected during mealtimes. Staff will ensure a calm and dignified eating environment, allowing children to eat at their own pace without unnecessary pressure.

Privacy and Dignity During Intimate Care

Nappy Changing and Intimate Care: The School is committed to ensuring that all intimate care, including nappy changing, is carried out in a way that respects children's dignity and privacy. This includes:

Ensuring that children are changed in private spaces, with appropriate staff-to-child ratios.

Using language that helps children understand and feel comfortable during intimate care procedures.

Any intimate care tasks will be documented, and the child's parent/carer will be notified if there are any concerns or issues during the process

Principles of Learning

Lower Peover CE Primary School adheres to the following principles in line with the EYFS framework:

A Unique Child

Every child is a unique individual who is constantly learning and developing. We recognize the importance of each child's personal, emotional, and educational journey.

Positive Relationships

We foster warm, positive, and responsive relationships with children, their families, and the local community, ensuring that all children feel secure, valued, and supported.

Enabling Environments

We provide an environment that is stimulating and responsive to the needs of the children. It supports exploration, curiosity, creativity, and safe risk-taking, while ensuring health, safety, and well-being.

Learning and Development

Our curriculum covers seven key areas of learning and development, which are essential for supporting children's holistic growth:

- **Communication and Language (CL)**
- **Physical Development (PD)**
- **Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED)**
- **Literacy (L)**
- **Mathematics (M)**
- **Understanding the World (UW)**
- **Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)**

Early Years Curriculum

Our EYFS curriculum is carefully designed to promote children's development across all seven areas of learning, with an emphasis on individual needs and holistic growth.

Safeguarding and Well-Being

Lower Peover CE Primary School is committed to safeguarding children in all aspects of their learning and development. Our safeguarding procedures include:

- **Safer Recruitment:** We adhere to rigorous recruitment processes, including obtaining verified references and conducting background checks for all staff.

- **Prompt Follow-up on Child Absences:** We will contact parents immediately if a child is absent without prior notice. Further safeguarding checks will be made if there is no response.
- **Whistleblowing Procedures:** Staff are encouraged to report any concerns they may have regarding safeguarding through clear and confidential channels.
- **Paediatric First Aid:** A qualified **Paediatric First Aid Trainer** will be present during all mealtimes to ensure quick response to any emergencies such as choking, food allergies, or other health-related incidents.
- **Privacy and Dignity in Intimate Care:** We respect children's privacy and dignity during all intimate care procedures, such as nappy changing, and ensure that staff adhere to sensitive practices.

Assessment and Reporting

- **Ongoing Assessment:** Continuous observation and recording of children's progress across all seven learning areas.
- **Regular Feedback:** Feedback to parents and carers will be provided regularly, both informally and through written reports, to ensure transparency in children's progress.
- **Parent Involvement:** We encourage strong communication with parents to ensure that children's development is supported both at home and in school.

Safeguarding Training Delivery and Implementation (Annex)

Annex A: Safeguarding Training Protocol

- **Initial Training:** All staff will receive safeguarding and child protection training on induction. This includes understanding the School's policies, identifying signs of abuse, and how to handle disclosures.
- **Annual Updates:** All staff are required to complete safeguarding updates annually to keep up to date with the latest legislation and best practices.
- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Our **DSL** is responsible for overseeing all safeguarding concerns and ensuring that staff are following best practices in child protection.

Lower Peover CE Primary School is dedicated to providing a high-quality early years education in line with the updated EYFS guidelines. With strengthened safeguarding protocols, safer recruitment procedures, a focus on children's dignity and privacy, and enhanced guidance on eating and intimate care, we ensure that each child is supported in a safe and nurturing environment.

For any further inquiries or concerns about this policy, please contact the School office.