YORKSHIRE Endeavour academy trust

West Cliff Primary School

Church Square, Whitby YO21 3EG
School: admin.westcliff@yeat.co.uk
Headteacher: headteacher.westcliff@yeat.co.uk
Tel: 01947 602510

West Cliff Primary School Early Years Foundation Stage Policy

Aims and Values

Caring, Happy, Inspiring, Achieving

West Cliff Primary School wants:

- Every child to reach his or her full potential in a climate which is fun, stimulating, and exciting.
- To be a school where children are safe and happy, have pride in themselves and are valued.
- To be a place where there is mutual care and respect.
-

Within this document, the term 'Early Years Foundation Stage' is used to describe children who are in our Nursery and Reception classes.

Aim

At West Cliff we aim to provide the highest quality care and education for all our children thereby giving them a strong foundation for their future learning. We create a safe and happy environment with motivating and enjoyable learning experiences that enable children to become confident and independent. We value the individual child and work alongside parents and others to meet their needs and help every child to reach their full potential.

As outlined in the EYFS:

YORKSHIRE Endeavour academy trust

West Cliff Primary School

Church Square, Whitby YO21 3EG
School: admin.westcliff@yeat.co.uk
Headteacher: headteacher.westcliff@yeat.co.uk
Tel: 01947 602510

'Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances.'

We adhere to the Statutory Framework of the EYFS and the four guiding principles that shape practice within Early Years settings.

- Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships
- Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers
- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates

Principles into practice

As part of our practice we:

- Provide a balanced curriculum, based on the EYFS, across the seven areas of learning and the Educational Programmes, using play as the vehicle for learning
- Promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice. We provide early intervention for those children who require additional support
- Work in partnership with parents and within the wider context
- Plan challenging learning experiences, based on the individual child, informed by observation and assessment
- Provide opportunities for children to engage in activities that are adult-initiated and child-initiated, supported by the adult

YORKSHIRE Endeavour academy trust

West Cliff Primary School

Church Square, Whitby YO21 3EG
School: admin.westcliff@yeat.co.uk
Headteacher: headteacher.westcliff@yeat.co.uk
Tel: 01947 602510

- Provide a secure and safe learning environment indoors and out

Foundation Stage Curriculum

We plan an exciting and challenging curriculum based on our observation of children's needs, interests, and stages of development across the seven areas of learning to enable the children to achieve and exceed the early learning goals. All the seven areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.
Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These three areas are the prime areas:
Communication and Language
Physical Development
Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children are also supported through the four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

The specific areas are:
Literacy
Mathematics
Understanding the World
Expressive Arts and Design

Children are provided with a range of meaningful first-hand experiences in which children explore, think creatively and are active. We aim to develop and foster positive attitudes towards learning, confidence, communication and physical development. As a team we discuss daily, weekly and termly

YORKSHIRE Endeavour academy trust

West Cliff Primary School

Church Square, Whitby YO21 3EG
School: admin.westcliff@yeat.co.uk
Headteacher: headteacher.westcliff@yeat.co.uk
Tel: 01947 602510

about the children's interests and needs and set out the provision accordingly.

Natural, intelligent materials and resources form the heart of our provision, allowing our children to build their own individual and group topics and themes in the moment. This coverage of learning is documented through photograph planning and physical and online observations. These plans are reviewed throughout the year by the Headteacher and SLT.

Practitioners working with our youngest children focus strongly on the three prime areas, which are the basis for successful learning in the four specific areas. These three areas of learning reflect the key skills that all children need to develop to learn effectively.

All children have opportunities for whole group and small group sessions which increase as they progress through the EYFS. Times for snack, songs and rhymes, quickly progress to social games, story time, early phonics sessions and early maths sessions. This in turn leads children into more formal teaching including phonics, reading and writing using our Little Wandle programme of study and our mathematics teaching which follows White Rose. Our curriculum is delivered using a play-based approach drawing on some set outcomes which may be planned and through our 'In The Moment' planning style.

"Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play which is guided by adults."

We plan a balance between children having time and space to engage in their own child-initiated activities and those that are planned by the adults. During children's play, early years practitioners interact to stretch and

Church Square, Whitby YO21 3EG
School: admin.westcliff@yeat.co.uk
Headteacher: headteacher.westcliff@yeat.co.uk
Tel: 01947 602510

challenge children further. In planning and guiding children's activities, we reflect as practitioners on the different ways that children learn and reflect these in our practice. We create a stimulating environment to encourage children to free-flow between inside and out.

Structure of EYFS

At West Cliff there is one Reception class and one Nursery class.
Our Reception class is led by a qualified teacher and supported by two teaching assistants.
Our Nursery class is lead by a Lead practitioner who is overseen by our EYFS Lead. An additional teaching assistant supports the Nursery lead practitioner.

Observation and Assessment

As part of our daily practice we observe and assess children's development and learning to inform our future plans. We record our observations in a variety of ways. Everyone is encouraged to contribute and discussions take place. Significant observations of children's achievements are collated in their own personal learning journey on line, which are shared with parents. Within the final term of Reception, we provide the parent's with a report based on their child's development against each of the Early Learning Goals and the characteristics of their learning. The parents are then given the opportunity to discuss these judgements with the Reception teacher in preparation for Year 1.

Safety

Children's safety and welfare is paramount. We create a safe and secure environment and provide a curriculum which teaches children how to be safe, make choices and assess risks. We have stringent policies, procedures and documents in place to ensure children's safety. We promote the good health

of the children in our care in numerous ways, including the provision of nutritious food, following set procedures when children become ill or have an accident. Please see our separate policies and procedures on Health and Safety, Child Protection, Food and Drink; Illness and Injury. In line with the statutory framework, there is always one member of staff who is paediatrically first aid trained on site and available when the children are present and on outings.

Food and Drink and Safer Eating

We ensure that staffing arrangements meet the needs of all children and ensure their safety. Our meals are prepared by NYES Catering who are knowledgeable and continuously evolving and changing in line with the up-to-date trends and requirements – whilst always committing to great quality and nutritionally balanced food. Fresh drinking water is always available and accessible to the children. We ensure that children are adequately supervised, especially when eating. This includes ensuring that whilst eating children are always in sight and hearing of a member of staff. There is always a member of staff in the room with a valid paediatric first aid certificate during eating times. Children will always remain seated when eating either at lunchtimes or at eating times during the day within the EYFS settings. In-line with the latest guidance, food will be prepared (cutting spherically/cylindrical food lengthways) and matched to the developmental stages of the children rather than rigid age brackets. Before children attend the setting, discussion with parents and carers involve detailed and ongoing discussions around allergies and intolerances and plans developed around this.

Sleeping

Sleeping arrangements are considered carefully within our setting. In line with strict current guidance, children will be placed on a soft, firm covering on the floor to prevent any falls. All children will be placed on their backs. This

Church Square, Whitby YO21 3EG
School: admin.westcliff@yeat.co.uk
Headteacher: headteacher.westcliff@yeat.co.uk
Tel: 01947 602510

setting only accepts children from the term after their second birthday and therefore sleeping is not part of our daily practice, these sleep requirements are in place for in frequent, non-scheduled times if and when sleep occurs. If a child does fall asleep, parents are called and a discussion around their preference will be discussed in the moment.

Inclusion

We value all our children as individuals at West Cliff, irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, home language, background, ability or gender. We plan a curriculum that meet the needs of the individual child and support them at their own pace so that our children achieve and even exceed the Early Learning Goals. We strongly believe that early identification of children with additional needs is crucial in enabling us to give the child the support that they need and in doing so, work closely with parents and outside agencies.

Parents as Partners and the Wider Context

We strive to create and maintain partnership with parents and carers as we recognise that together, we can have a significant impact on a child's learning. We welcome and actively encourage parents to participate confidently in their child's education and care in numerous ways. Working with other services and organisations is integral to our practice in order to meet the needs of our children. At times we may need to share information with other professionals to provide the best support possible. We draw on our links with the community to enrich children's experiences by taking them on outings and inviting members of the community into our setting.

Transitions

Church Square, Whitby YO21 3EG
School: admin.westcliff@yeat.co.uk
Headteacher: headteacher.westcliff@yeat.co.uk
Tel: 01947 602510

Transitions are carefully planned for and time given to ensure continuity of learning. At any transition, we acknowledge the child's needs and establish effective partnerships with those involved with the child and other settings, including nurseries and childminders. Children attend introductory sessions to Nursery and Reception to develop familiarity with the setting and practitioners. In the final term in Reception, the Year 1 teacher will meet with the Early Years staff and discuss each child's development against the Early Learning Goals in order to support a smooth transition to Year 1. This discussion helps the Year 1 teacher to plan an effective, responsive and appropriate curriculum that will meet the needs of all children.

Reviewed: Autumn 2026
Review date: Autumn 2027